下

オ.シ.ゴ.ト

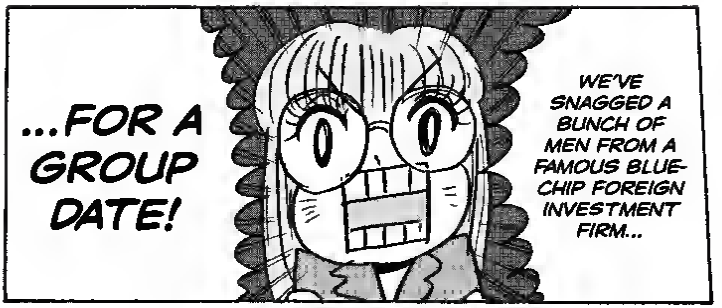
O. SHI. GO. TO.

SHIRIAGARI KOTOBUKI

しりあがり寿

Oshigoto

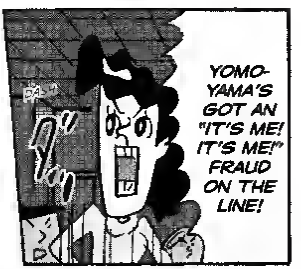
Cast of characters



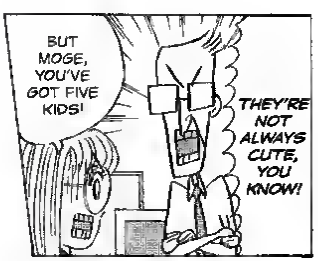
Yomoyama Hanako
Planning department associate

Tamagotoshi Kakeru
Planning Department staff

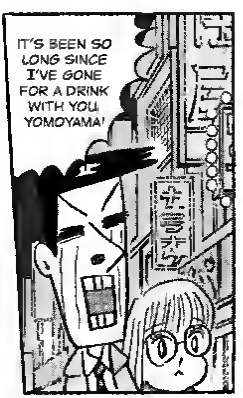
Ohashi Wataru
Planning Department Chief



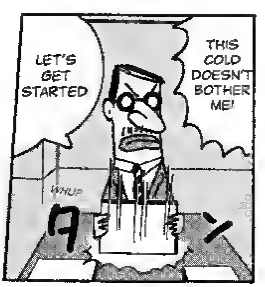
Gomayashiki Tomoko
Planning department associate; friend of Yomoyama



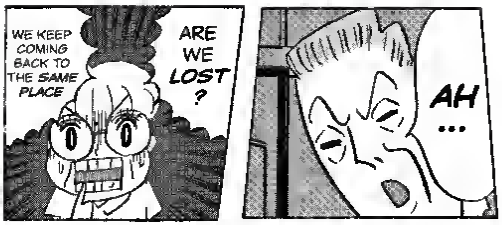
Moge Nobuo
Planning Department Manager



Yamanoue Kumonosuke
Sales Promotion Department



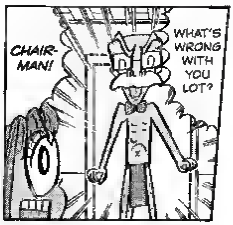
Unno Tadao
Planning Department, Research Associate



Yomoyama Ritsuko & Yomoyama Kaoru
Hanako's mother and father

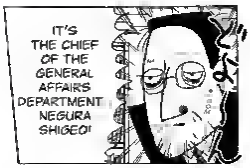
Ikkenya Sotaro
Head of Accounting; nickname "Gray Haired Devil"

Chief Kanetaka
Chief of the Finance Department

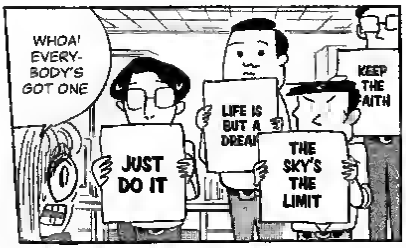


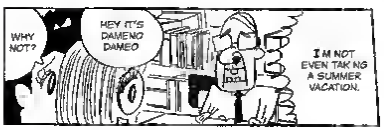
Ishibutai Naotake
Chairman

Hirano Hajime
President



Negura Shigeo
General Affairs Department





Dameno Dameo
Manager, Planning Department

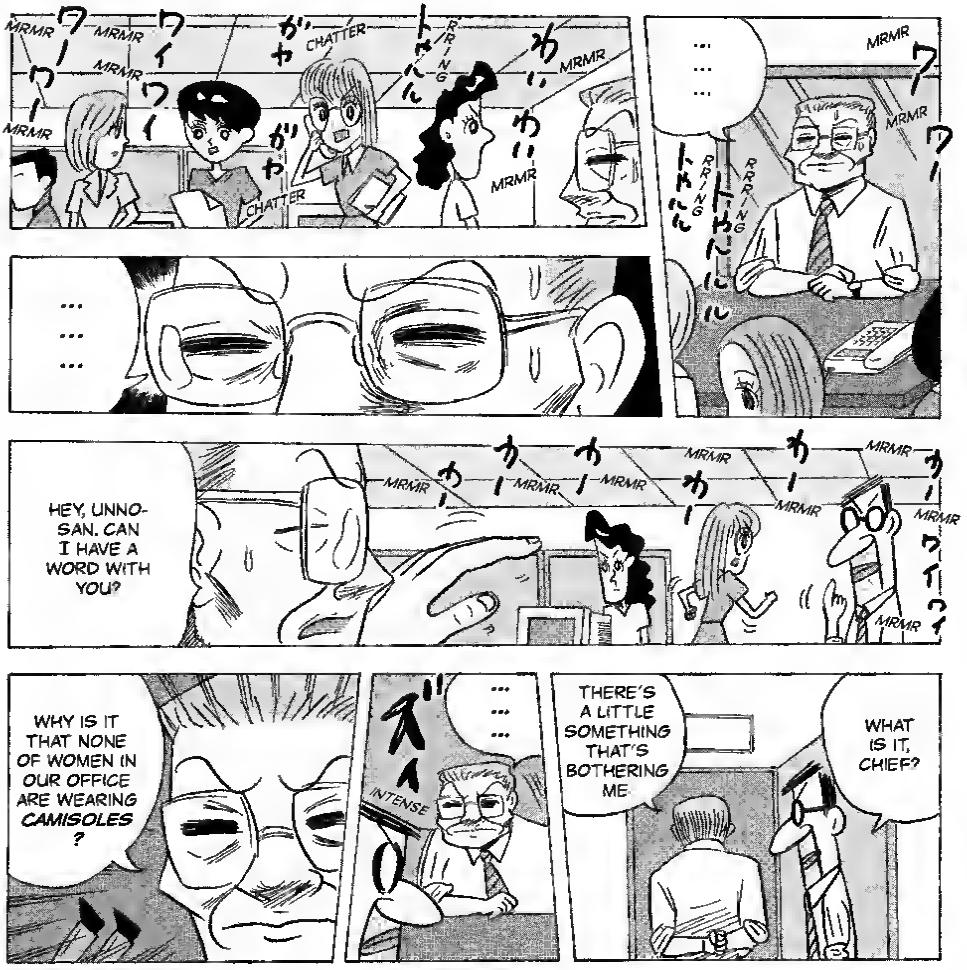
HE GOT THAT GIRL PREGNANT-- YOSHIKO FROM SALES
HE HIT ON ME WITH THOSE, TOO
SHIMA S FAVORITE P CK UP PLOY IS GIVING MOMIJI MANJU

coworkers

Chapter 1

The Burden of Leadership

1998


MRMR
CHATTER
RRRING
...
HEY, UNNO-SAN. CAN I HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
WHY IS IT THAT NONE OF WOMEN IN OUR OFFICE ARE WEARING CAMISOLES?
INTENSE
THERE'S A LITTLE SOMETHING THAT'S BOTHERING ME
WHAT IS IT, CHIEF?

IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?
I THINK THE MAGAZINES ARE EXAGGERATING IT BIT
ACCORDING TO THE FASHION MAGAZINES, CAMISOLES ARE ALL OVER TOWN
ファッション アレ ついて
IS THAT REALLY ALL THERE IS TO IT?
WELL... EVERY ONE HAS THEIR OWN LIKES AND DISLIKES, I GUESS
I THINK BEING INHIBITED IS THE LEAST OF OUR PROBLEMS
MAYBE MY PERSONALITY IS TOO GLOOMY, AND IT MAKES THE OFFICE INHIBITED
HOW DOES YOUR MANAGEMENT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CAMISOLES?
WHAT IF IT'S BECAUSE OF WEAKNESS IN MY MANAGEMENT?!
YOU'RE RIGHT... I HAVEN'T BEEN PROVIDING ENOUGH LEADERSHIP
WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT YOU'RE NOT EXACTLY THE MOST DYNAMIC LEADER
WHAT IF I LACK LEADERSHIP?
THE SUBORDINATES WILL NEVER KNOW THE BURDEN OF LEADERSHIP
GAH! WHY IS THE CHIEF WEARING NOTHING BUT AN UNDERSHIRT?!
SORT OF LIKE A CAMISOLE
...
...
...

Chapter 2

Takeover by a Foreign Company?!

1998

WHAT IS IT?
MRMR
MRMR
HEY, YOMOYAMA. THIS IS JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME, BUT...
MRMR
CHATTER
MRMR
CHATTER
WHAT ?!
I THINK OUR COMPANY IS GONNA GET BOUGHT OUT BY A FOREIGN INVESTOR!
THE CHIEF HAS GOTTEN A WHOLE LOT MORE "INTERNATIONAL" LATELY.
WHY?! WHY?! WHY?! WHY?! WHY?! WHY?!
BUT RECENTLY HE SWITCHED TO COFFEE.
HE USED TO ALWAYS DRINK GREEN TEA
WELL, FOR INSTANCE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, EXACTLY?

HE KEEPS ASKING ME "HOW'S IT HANGING?" I OON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS!
MRMR
MRMR
INSTEAD OF SAYING "PLEASE GET ME SOME COFFEE," HE'S BEEN SAYING "SCORE ME SOME JAVA."
CHATTER CHATTER
INSTEAD OF SAYING "WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROJECT," HE SAYS "WHAT'S THE SKINNY?"
WHOA
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, HE'S BEEN USING A LOT OF ENGLISH SLANG LATELY.
I OVER HEARO SOMETHING THAT PROVES IT!
BUT IS THAT ALL THE EVIOENCE YOU'VE GOT?
MRMR
THIS MORNING IN ELEVATOR, HE ASKEO ME "HOW YOU OOING?"
MRMR
INSTEAO OF TELLING ME TO RELAX, HE TOLO ME TO "CHILL OUT."
WHEN HE LEFT YESTEROAY, HE SAIO SOME-THING ABOUT MEETING HIS "HOMEBOYS."
THE CHIEF'S ON THE PHONE AGAIN!
A LARGE-SCALE TAKE-OVER!
THAT'S PROOF ALL RIGHT!
THAT'S WHAT HE SAIO ON THE PHONE
WE'RE HAVING A LARGE-SCALE TAKEOVER ...
...
...
...
...
LIKE I SAIO, SHE'S HAVING A LARGE-SCALE MAKEOVER. NEW HAIRSTYLE, NEW MAKEUP, THE WORKS. I OON'T NOTICE THE OIFFERENCE, BUT IF IT MAKES THE WIFE HAPPY...

Chapter 3

Child-Rearing

1998

LIKE THIS?
YOU HAVE TO SUPPORT THE BACK OF THE NECK LIKE THIS.
THE BATH, FOR IN-STANCE
RAISING CHILDREN IS HARDER THAN YOU THINK.
BUT MOGE, YOU'VE GOT FIVE KIDS!
THEY'RE NOT ALWAYS CUTE, YOU KNOW!
HUH ?!
どて
WHUMP
YOU GOTTA PRACTICE! I'LL BE THE BABY!
NO! THAT'S ALL WRONG!
LIKE THIS?
THEN PUT THE FEET IN FIRST.
NO-BUO! IT'S NO-BUO!
UH... WHAT'S YOUR FIRST NAME, MOGE SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT. NOW SOFTLY CALL MY NAME.
SO PUT MY HAND HERE?
HURRY UP! THE BATH WATER IS GETTING COLD!
FLAP
はた
NO WAY!
MOGE IS AWFULLY GOOD AT ACTING LIKE A BABY.. TOO GOOD
MOGE DID THAT TO ME A LONG TIME AGO. I SWORE I'D NEVER HAVE KIDS.
AGH! THIS IS JUST TOO CREEPY!
FLOP
ぐ
ぐ
ぐ
SUPPORT THE NECK, OR THE BABY WILL FLOP AROUND!

Chapter 4

Yomoyama the Negotiator

1998

NO... HE SAID WE'LL HAVE TO COVER THE ENTIRE BUDGET OURSELVES.
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
WELL? HOW'D IT GO? DID HE AGREE TO COVER HALF THE EXPENSES?
TAK
TAK
I'M BACK FROM THE MEETING WITH THE CHIEF OF SALES.
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
TAK
TAK
FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE ENTIRE COMPANY, IT DOESN'T MATTER WHICH DEPARTMENT PAYS FOR IT.
TAK
TAK
WHAT?! BUT THE SALES DEPARTMENT CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA IN THE FIRST PLACE!
YEAH... BUT WHEN I TALK TO THE CHIEF OF SALES, REALISTIC DETAILS SEEM TO JUST FADE AWAY.
IT DOES TOO MATTER! IF OUR DEPARTMENT HAS TO COVER IT, OUR WHOLE BUDGET IS COMPLETELY SHOT!
BUT SERIOUS PEOPLE ARE THE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE TO MIND CONTROL... SO...
HMM... I'VE GOT TO MAKE THE CHIEF OF SALES RELENT.
IT'S GOTTA BE BRAIN WASHING! MIND CONTROL!
YEAH! IT'S LIKE HE CAN CONVINCE ME OF ANYTHING.
THINGS ALWAYS GET WEIRD WHEN WE TALK TO THAT GUY

OOH?
THIS GUY KINDA SCARES ME.
KNOCK KNOCK
WHO, ME?
YOMOYAMA! YOU GO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CHIEF OF SALES!
HEH HEH HEH NOW THAT I'VE GOT HER DISTRACTED...
THE BUDGET IS BIG, BUT I GUESS WORLD PEACE IS MORE IMPORTANT.
SHOULD WE BE THINKING OF SOMETHING LARGER... LIKE WORLD PEACE?
HA HA HA
WHAT, THAT AGAIN?
COULD WE GET YOU TO RECONSIDER THE BUDGET ISSUE?
AND THEN MY DEPARTMENT COULD FOCUS ON CREATING WORLD PEACE, RIGHT?!
AND IF YOUR BUDGET WAS THAT BIG, YOU COULD COVER ALL OF THE PROJECT'S COSTS
WELL... UH... YEAH, I... I MEAN...
...
...
...
DOUBLED IS SMALL POTATOES WE SHOULD GET YOUR BUDGET INCREASED A HUNDRED TIMES!
WELL, I SUPPOSE SO.
IF YOUR BUDGET GETS DOUBLED, YOU WOULDN'T MIND PAYING HALF, WOULD YOU?
NOW I CAN'T TELL WHO'S BRAINWASHED WHO.
AND OUR DEPARTMENT WILL TAKE ON WORLD PEACE!
WOO
YEAH!
MY DEPARTMENT WILL COVER ALL THE COSTS!

Chapter 5

Home Shopping

1998

YOU BUY STUFF FROM MAIL ORDER CATALOGS?
THANKS I GOT IT FROM A MAIL ORDER CATALOG.
SAY, THAT'S AN INTERESTING BAG YOU'VE GOT THERE.
MRMR
YEAH THE JINGLES WITH THE PHONE NUMBERS REALLY STICK IN YOUR HEAD.
I GUESS IT'S NO DIFFERENT FROM ALL THOSE TELEVISION INFOMERCIALS YOU SEE THESE DAYS.
ME, TOO. THAT'S HOW I GET MY GARDENING SUPPLIES
CHATTER
NO THAT'S FOR DHC. TO GET A SAMPLE.
GAH
DOMO HORUN WRINKLE!
WHAT THAT'S ONE FOR BEAUTY PRODUCTS THAT START'S WITH THE TOLL-FREE AREA CODE 0120?
THAT'S FOR THE JAPAN CULTURE CENTER
WHAT'S THE ONE THAT ALWAYS ENDS IN 2222?
YOU REMEMBER ALL THAT?
THAT'S FOR WEEKLY CONDO RENTALS
WHAT'S THE ONE THAT GOES ONE-ONE-ONE?
I WILL WHEN THE TIME COMES.
YOU REALLY KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS STUFF
DO YOU DO HAIR REPLACEMENT?
THAT'S FOR HAIR RESTORATION.
THEN THERE'S THAT OTHER ONE WHERE YOU TALK TO A CONSULTANT?

HER FATHER SHOWED UP SUDDENLY WITHOUT CALLING!
HONEY? I JUST DROPPED BY.
ONCE, WHEN I WAS VISITING MY GIRLFRIEND'S PLACE...
WHAT HAPPENED?!
AND THOSE FREE-STANDING CLOSETS. REMEMBER THEM?
MRMR
I REMEMBER ALL THOSE COMMERCIALS FOR HIGH QUALITY SCISSORS.
WHY DON'T THEY GIVE YOU A KNIFE WITH EVERY SINGLE CUTTING BOARD YOU BUY?
OR THEY COULD GIVE YOU A KNIFE WITH EVERY SINGLE DOWN COMFORTER
WITH EVERY SINGLE KNIFE YOU BUY, THEY GIVE YOU A CUTTING BOARD.
AND WITH CATALOG SHOPPING, YOU GET THOSE KNIVES WITH THE HOLES IN THEM!
ギャハハ
GAAAH
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
SO I TURNED INTO "THE MAN STASHED IN THE CLOSET."
MRMR
AH! OH, DAMN!
I'VE GOT A DELIVERY FROM HOME-SHOPPING FOR A OHASHI WATARU
UH, NO... I...
HAVE YOU EVER BOUGHT ANYTHING THROUGH TELEVISION SALES, CHIEF?
GAAAH
WHEN I BUY THE KNIFE WITH THE HOLES, I WANT THEM TO GIVE ME THE HOLE PARTS TOO
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THE ECONOMY IS ALL THAT BAD FOR THESE PEOPLE, ANYWAY.
BWA HA HA HA HA HA
ワハハ
ギャハハ
CRUD! I GAVE THEM MY COMPANY ADDRESS BY MISTAKE!
あああ
AHAH
HERE IT IS--YOUR EXERCISE BIKE.

The Planning Department in Danger?!

1998

CHATTER
MRMR
YEAH, HE LEFT JUST NOW.
TO POKOPON SHOJI
OIO POKOPON SHOJI ALREADY GO HOME ?!
DASH
HUH ?!
HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW THAT IF YOU OION'T TELL ME?
TO POKOPON SHOJI
BUT I LEFT THIS FOR HIM.
WHERE THE HECK IS YOUR DEPART-MENT CHIEF?!
YOU'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
USE YOUR COMMON SENSE, PLEASE!
HEY, YOMO-YAMA!
WHY OION'T HE TELL US WHERE HE WENT?!
SHUDDER
I'M VERY SORRY, SIR!
SWEAT
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS DEPART-MENT?!
TMP
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE YOUR BOSS IS?!
UH... I'M NOT SURE, SIR

THUNK
I'VE HAD IT WITH THIS DEPARTMENT! THERE'S NO COMMUNICATION!
WHAM
I DID TELL YOU! I TOLD YOU A BUNCH OF TIMES!
THE DEADLINE FOR EXPENSE RECEIPTS WAS TODAY! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
FLIT
ME TOO!
FLIT
ANO ME!
I GOT SOME SCRAP PAPER!
FWIP
FWIP
FLIT
FLIT
TISSUE, DO YOUR STUFF!
FWIP
FWIP
YOMOYAMA'S DESK IS IN TROUBLE!
SHP
SHP
SHP
WE DID IT! WE STOPPED THE FLOW OF TEA!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE STAFF IS REALLY PULLING TOGETHER AS A TEAM.
WAHOO
WAHOO
YEAAAH
WAHOO
うえーん
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! I'M SO LUCKY TO HAVE SUCH WONDERFUL COWORKERS!

Chapter 7

After the Last Train

1998

WE ORANK TOO LONG, ANO MISSED THE LAST TRAIN!
WHEN OIO IT GET THIS LATE?
PUB
OH NO!
PUB
A TAXI HOME WILL COST AT LEAST 10,000 YEN!
NOW WHAT THE HECK ARE WE GONNA DO?
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE DONE THIS
NOT A WHOLE LOT OF CUSTOM-ERS AT THIS HOUR
WE'LL HAVE TO FINO SOME-PLACE TO HANO OUT UNTIL THE MORNING TRAINS START.
WSSH
WSSH
IT'S TOO COLO TO WALK AROUNO OUTSIOE ALL NIGHT.
北の魚の庄
WHAT ABOUT A RESTAURANT LIKE THIS?
HMM...
YEAH... IT'S A LITTLE SCARY...
BUT A PLACE LIKE THIS...
BAR

THAT VOICE...
HEY, IZ PRINCESS YOMOYAMA AN' PRINCESS GOMAYASHIKI, AIN'T IT?
AND SOMEBODY ALWAYS GOT WASTED.
WE USED TO CHUG A WHOLE BEER IN ONE GO BACK THEN
ALMOST NO MONEY, HANGING OUT DRINK ING UNTIL MORNING
YEAH, REALLY. IT WAS ALWAYS LIKE THIS IN COLLEGE.
NUTTIN'. JUZ HAD A FEW, 'N MISSED DE LAST TRAIN.
PANT
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TWO?
WHOA! LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY IS STILL IN COLLEGE MODE.
MEETIN' UP WID YOU GUYS...IZ DIS COOL 'R WHAT?!
WHAA ?
YOMO-YAMA.
BURNT OUT
THAT GIGGLING IS CREEPING ME OUT.
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH
HEH HEH NOW I'LL BE WITH YOMOYAMA TILL MORNING
THAT ROTTEN...
HE'S BEEN TELLING EVERY-BODY ABOUT HOW YOU WERE TOGETHER.
MRMR
I HEAR YOU SPENT THE WHOLE NIGHT WITH YAMANOUE.

Chapter 8

Do it This Year

1999

どさっ
BADUMP
WHOA! THAT'S A LOT!
I WANT YOU TO TAKE ALL THIS REGIONAL DATA AND ORGANIZE IT INTO A DATA-BASE
SAY, YOMOYAMA
HMM, LET'S SEE .. IT'S NOT TOO TERRIBLY URGENT.
WHEN DOES IT NEED TO BE FINISHED BY?
WITHIN THE YEAR!
WHAT SAY YOU FINISH IT WITHIN THE YEAR?
WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH YOU?!
BWA HA HA! WITHIN THE YEAR, WITHIN THE YEAR!
BAM
BAM
BAM
YOU SURE ARE HAPPY ABOUT THE BOSS GIVING YOU A JOB
THAT'S THE SPIRIT
WHUMP
IT'S STILL JANUARY! NO PROB-LEM. LEAVE IT TO ME!

MRMR
IT FEELS LIKE THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
WITHIN THE YEAR FEELS LIKE YOU'VE GOT FOREVER
MRMR
WELL, ASSUMING NOSTRADAMUS'S PREDICTIONS DON'T COME TRUE
IF IT'S "WITHIN THE YEAR," THERE'S NOTHING I CAN'T DO
I SEE. IT'D BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT TO BE TOLD "WITHIN THE YEAR" IF IT WAS DECEMBER
I'M JUST HAPPY THAT I'VE BEEN GIVEN A WHOLE YEAR TO FINISH IT
YOU THINK THAT'S EVEN REMOTELY POSSIBLE?
I WANT TO BECOME A PRINCESS
I WANT TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT
MRMR
I COULD TRAIN AND BECOME A PRO BASEBALL PLAYER
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
IF I TRIED, I COULD SAVE UP A MILLION YEN.
CHATTER
CHATTER
I COULD CREATE 100 PROJECT PLANS.
MRMR
MRMR
NO, ACCORDING TO MY RECORDS, IT WAS JUST ABOUT JANUARY ONE YEAR AGO.
WITHIN THIS YEAR, IT'S NO PROBLEM!
IT'S NOT THAT THE PROJECT TO MAKE TEN YEAR FORECASTS FOR ONE HUNDRED COMPANIES...
I HAVEN'T FINISHED THAT JOB YOU GAVE ME YET! I'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF TIME LEFT!
SAY, YOMOYAMA
OH NO! I FORGOT ABOUT IT FOR A WHOLE YEAR!
I ASKED YOU TO COMPLETE THAT TASK BY THE END OF LAST YEAR

Chapter 9

Moge's Three-Day Absence

1999

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "SPLICING PHOTOS"?
IT'S WHERE YOU SPLICE THE HEAD OF A FAMOUS ACTRESS ONTO NUDE BODY.
SPLICING PHOTOS, FOR ONE THING.
WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO DO THAT FOR?
LOTS OF THINGS
WOW THAT'S PRETTY AMAZING.
NO, AN INTERNET HOME PAGE.
MOGE'S BEEN BUILDING A HOME?
PANT PANT
NO! THAT'S NOT IT!
OR ORDER SLEEPING PILLS TO DRUG GIRLS WITH?
THEN IS IT SO THAT YOU CAN ORDER POTASSIUM CYANIDE DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME?
PANT
PANT
NO! THAT'S NOT IT!
YOU PER-VERT!
THAT'S SICK, MOGE!
PANT
PANT
BE-HOLD!
WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT IT!
TAK TAK
TAK TAK
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO SEE THAT.
THE THINGS I LIKE, MY HOBBIES, MY FAMILY, MY WHOLE LIFE...
ON MY HOME PAGE, I'LL SHOW THE WORLD MY EVERY-THING!
H... T T... P? UH... SLASH... ANOTHER SLASH?
HE'S FORGOTTEN HIS OWN URL.
WELL? WHAT'S WRONG?

Chapter 10

Afternoon Romance

1999

WHERE ARE THEY ALL HIDING?
GEEZ... THERE REALLY AREN'T ANY GOOD MEN OUT THERE
BWA HA HA HA!!
NO WAY.. REALLY?
ACTUALLY, I'M DATING A GUY IN THE COMPANY.
WE'RE HAVING AN AFFAIR. HE'S MARRIED.
WHOA... I WASN'T EXPECTING A CONVERSATION THIS SERIOUS. OKAY, GIRLS. THIS IS A DELICATE SITUATION, AND WE'VE GOT TO HELP HER NOT GET HURT
I JUST CAN'T BREAK UP WITH HIM. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
GAH !!

NO, NOT REALLY.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN STARTED IN A STORM OF PASSION
NO, NOT REALLY.
IT MUST BE PRETTY FRUSTRATING, HUH?
NO, NO. SO, AN AFFAIR, EH?
SORRY TO BRING UP MY TROUBLES LIKE THIS
HE GOT THAT GIRL PREGNANT-- YOSHIKO FROM SALES.
HE HIT ON ME WITH THOSE, TOO
MRMR
MRMR
SHIMA'S FAVORITE PICK-UP PLOY IS GIVING MOMIJI MANJU.
AH! THAT'S GOTTA BE SHIMA-SAN FROM THE ACCOUNTING DEPART-MENT!
BAM
HE JUST CAME BACK FROM A BUSINESS TRIP AND GAVE ME SOME EXTRA SOUVENIR MOMIJI MANJU HE BOUGHT
YEAH, I'VE HEARD THAT.
I GUESS. BUT THE SEX IS GREAT.
YOU'VE GOTTA BREAK IT OFF RIGHT AWAY
HOW CAN YOU BE SO.. CASUAL?
MRMR
YES.. THAT WOULD BE GOOD.
MAYBE BURN DOWN THEIR HOUSE?
MRMR
MRMR
THEN YOU'VE GOT TO BEAT OUT HIS WIFE AND GET HIM TO MARRY YOU!
HUH? HOW DID YOU KNOW?
ヒョオー
WSSSH
I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THOSE GUYS.

Chapter 11

Brand Sale

1999

FAMOUS BRANDS, EH?
THERE'S A BARGAIN SALE AT A FAMOUS BRAND OUTLET.
SHH!
CHIEF!
WHERE ARE YOU TWO HEADING OUT FOR?
IT'S NOT LUNCHTIME YET, BUT WE GOTTA GO NOW!
BAA
DASH
DASH
I GUESS WE HAVE TO
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
MIND IF I COME WITH YOU?
I'VE BEEN THINKING I NEED TO STUDY UP ABOUT POPULAR BRANDS
CLAP
OKAY!
BRAND BARGAIN SHOP
MRMR
I'M GETTING EXCITED
OH, BRANDS, EH?
TMP
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
OH NO! MORE PEOPLE!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT "BRANDS," MR CHAIRMAN. CARE TO COME WITH US?
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A BRA?
AGH! I WISH I'D NEVER COME!
KHAN
HEY, YOMOYAMA. WHAT'S "CHANEL"?

Chapter 12

Gender Equality

1999

THIS IS GOING TO REQUIRE ALL OF US TO REVISE OUR THINKING ABOUT THE POSITIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN IN THE OFFICE.
NEW EMPLOYMENT REGULATIONS REQUIRE GENDER EQUALITY IN THE WORKPLACE.
STARTING THIS SPRING.
SO WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CHEERLEADERS AND COCKTAIL WAITRESSES?
IT MEANS THE COMPANY CAN'T JUST HIRE MEN FOR THE GOOD JOBS.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
OKAY, THEN! LET'S PUT AN END TO DISCRIMINATION!
CHIEF?
THAT SOUNDS INTERESTING AND IT WOULD ALLOW US TO REVISE OUR THINKING, WOULDN'T IT?
CLAP
YEAH
FOR THE REST OF THE DAY, THE MEN AND WOMEN ARE GOING TO SWITCH JOBS!
HA HA HA. WE CAN'T DO THAT!

WHY SURE! ♡
LITTLE OL' ME?
OKAY, MOGE-SAN. GO GET ME A CUP OF TEA.
HMM.
IT'S SIMPLE. JUST DO IT IN A MASCULINE WAY
BECAUSE I CAN'T IMAG-INE HOW A MAN WOULD DO IT.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO ACT SO EFFEMI-NATE?
KNOCK IT OFF!
HERE YOU GO, SWEETIE ♡
THEN WHY DON'T WE GIVE IT A TRY?
BEING FEMININE IS KINDA CUTE.
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH BEING MAS CULINE OR FEMININE
KNOCK IT OFF!
BOYAA
どっこいしょー
STOMP
ずん
HEY! HERE'S YOUR DAMN TEA!
WHAT THE HECK IS UP WITH THEM?!
THEY'RE ENJOYING THIS WAY TOO MUCH.
OH MY GOD! WHATEVER WILL YOU DO? ♡
I THINK HE'S TAKEN A FANCY TO YOU
THE BOSS WAS GETTING AWFULLY FAMILIAR WITH ME. HE KEPT TOUCHING MY SHOUL-DERS

Chapter 13

The Nobility Has Arrived!

WHAT'S UP? WHAT'S GOING ON?
THE NUMBERS ARE INCREASING
I CAN BRING IN THE TISSUES FOR WHEN THEY SPILL SOME THING.
UH . I COULD...
MRMR
WITH SOME THING THIS SMALL, IT LOOKS SILLY IF TWO PEOPLE CARRY IT.
LET ME HELP YOU CARRY THAT.
UH .. YEAH, I GUESS.
YOU ALSO NEED SOMEONE TO BRING IN THE SNACKS, DON'T YOU?
I'LL SING A SONG!
I CAN BRING IN THIS TURTLE.
HE MIGHT LIKE SOME WIND CHIMES.
WILL YOU KNOCK IT OFF ALREADY?!
A EUROPEAN ARISTOCRAT MIGHT LIKE STAPLERS.
ARE YOU NUTS?!
I COULD BRING IN THE STAPLER.
THE STAPLER?
MAYBE THEY'LL WANT SOME ENTERTAINMENT
HURRY UP WITH THE TEA!
NO WAY THAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!
WHAT THE WHERE'D THIS PARADE COME FROM?!
MARCH
すてーん
THUD
THE GUEST JUST LEFT.

Chapter 14

Commercial Character

1999

THE FORMER MISS JAPAN?! NO WAY!
YOU KNOW WHO'S GONNA STAR IN OUR COMPANY'S COMMERCIALS? FUJIWARA NORIKA!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BELIEVE THIS!
BAM
I'VE GOTTA SEE THIS!!
MRMR
TMP
FUJIWARA NORIKA?!
FUJIWARA NORIKA! SHE'S GONNA BE IN OUR COMPANY'S COMMERCIALS!
WHAT'S ALL THE FUSS ABOUT?
NORIPI?
...
DON'T YOU KNOW?! SHE'S THE HOTTEST MODEL IN JAPAN!
WHO EXACTLY IS THIS FUJIWARA NORIKA?

THAT WAS A THOUSAND YEARS AGO!
FROM THE MIDDLE AGES, RIGHT?
...IS THE FUJIWARA REGENT.
MRMR MRMR
YEAH.
THE FUJIWARA I KNOW...
THAT GUY HAS BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS!
NORIHEI?
GREAT IDEA! DO IT!
IF I ASK HIM, HE MIGHT LET US COME WATCH THE COMMERCIAL SHOOT.
NO, NOT HER! I'M FRIENDS WITH THE AD DEPARTMENT GUY!
YOU DIRTY LIAR! YOU'VE NEVER EVEN MET HER!
WHAK WHAK
YOU'RE FULL OF IT!
WE GO OUT DRINKING TOGETHER ALL THE TIME.
MRMR MRMR MRMR
"WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT" CAMPAIGN MEETING
WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT CAMPAIGN?
WOW, THERE'S A LOT OF YOU.
ずらー
GAH!
HE SAYS SHE'S HERE AT THE COMPANY RIGHT NOW, AND HE'LL INTRODUCE HER.
MRMR MRMR MRMR
HELLO? YEAH. OKAY.
THAT'S NOT MISS JAPAN!
そんなこったろうと思った
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN!
HOW DO YOU DO? I'M GRANNY FUJIWARA.

Chapter 15

Platform Sandals

1999

MRMR
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE TALLNESS OF THOSE SANDALS
WHAT'S UP?
YEAH, WHAT?
NAH... THAT'S STILL NOT WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR
SKY-SCRAPER TALL
OR MAYBE ELEVATOR TALL
STRATO-SPHERE, EH?
STRATO-SPHERE TALL!
HOW ABOUT "HEART-STOPPINGLY TALL"?
YEAH THAT'S CLOSE
I'M TRYING TO SAY HOW THEY'RE SO TALL THEY'LL FALL OVER
YOUNG PEOPLE WOULD SAY "WICKED TALL"
MAYBE "TOKYO TOWER TALL."
OR MAYBE IT'S "HEAVENLY TALL."
I CAN'T THINK OF WHAT CALL THAT
YEAH, I THOUGHT ABOUT THAT TOO
RIGHT?
MAYBE WE BETTER ASK THE CHIEF
OR MAYBE "HIGH WIRE TALL"
THAT'S NOT TOO BAD
AH, THAT'S STILL NOT IT.
...
HOW ABOUT "DEATH-DEFYINGLY TALL?!"
CHATTER
"TIGHT AS AN OLD GIRDLE"?
HOW DO EXPRESS WHAT A CHEAPSKATE HE IS?
NAH, THAT'S NOT QUITE IT.
WHAT A TIGHT-WAD
YOU'D BETTER NOT BE WASTING OVERTIME HOURS TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING THIS TRIVIAL!

Chapter 16

Motivational Message

1999

I'VE GOT A GREAT PLAN LISTEN...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING FOR SUMMER VACATION?
WHY NOT?
HEY, IT'S OAMENO DAMEO.
I'M NOT EVEN TAKING A SUMMER VACATION!
THIS COMPANY IS JUST LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO LAY ME OFF!
IF I DID, MY DESK WOULDN'T BE HERE WHEN I GOT BACK!
SCRIB
LIKE THOSE MOTIVATIONAL POSTERS YOU SEE ALL OVER THE PLACE. WE'LL MAKE OUR OWN
SCRIB
HOW DO YOU MEAN, "MOTIVATE"?
WE'VE GOT TO MOTIVATE HIM.
HE REALLY IS STRESSED OUT ABOUT LAYOFFS.
WAH
WAH
WAH
WAH

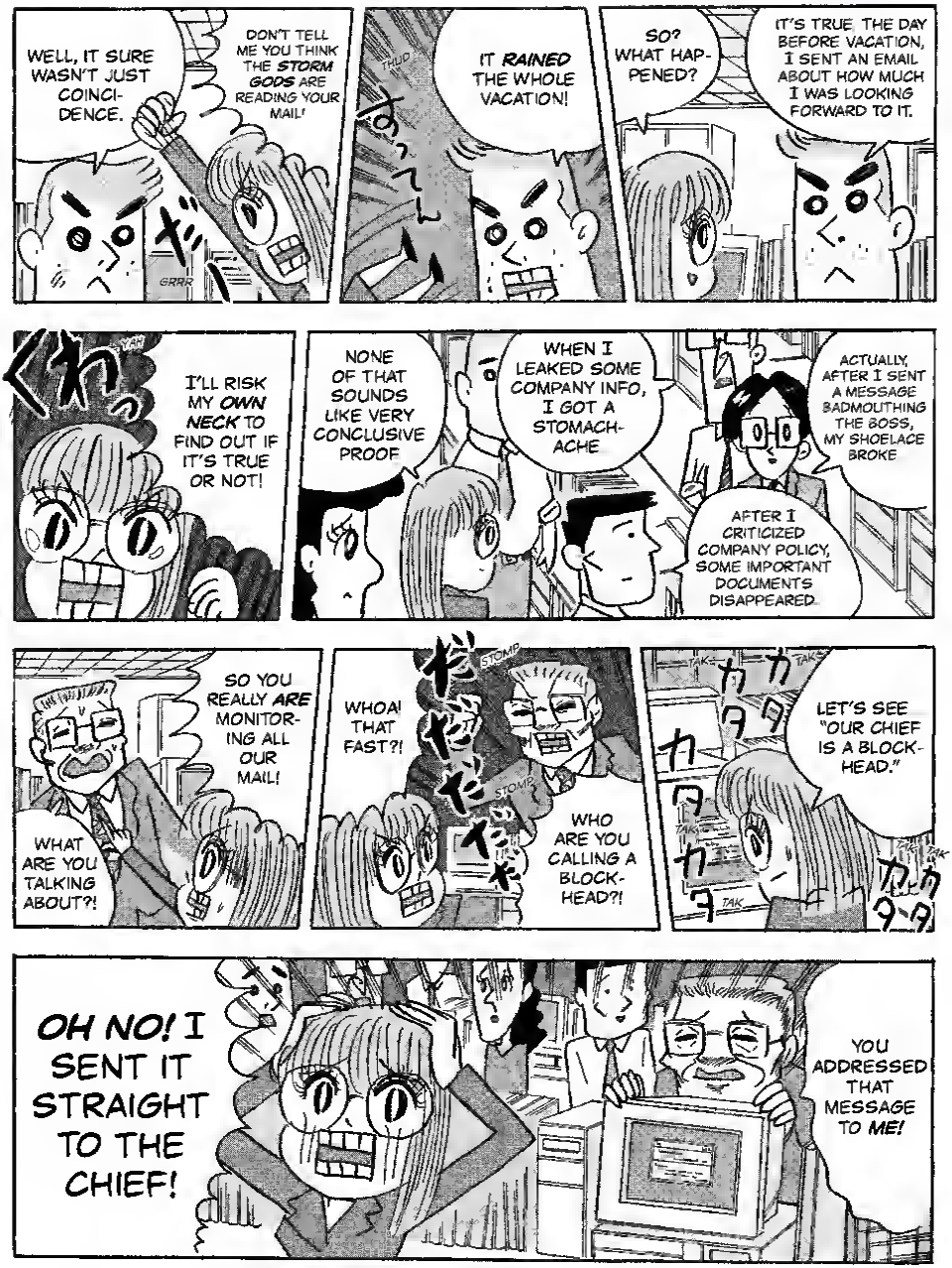
NO! NOT WHAT I MEAN!
HOW'S THIS?
HAVE A NICE DAY
THAT ONLY SOUNDS LIKE LAYOFFS ARE CERTAIN. WE NEED SOMETHING OPTIMISTIC
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
THERE'S LIFE AFTER LAYOFFS
THAT'S FOR A STORE WINDOW
CHILLED NOODLES ON SALE
I THOUGHT IT'D GIVE THE OFFICE A SEASONAL FEEL
SO I DON'T FORGET IT
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSE TO MEAN?
HAND-KERCHIEF
WHOA! EVERY-BODY'S GOT ONE.
JUST DO IT
LIFE IS BUT A DREAM
KEEP THE FAITH
THE SKY'S THE LIMIT
THAT SOUNDS GOOD
HOW ABOUT A DRINK AFTER WORK?
OH NO! HE'S GONNA CRACK!
DAMN IT! WHAT DO THESE YOUNG PUNKS KNOW ABOUT LIFE'S HARDSHIPS?!
NOW THAT'S THE TRADITIONAL WAY TO MOTIVATE.

Chapter 17

Email Monitoring

1999

"HE'S SUCH A DAMN BLOCK-HEAD AND THE REST OF HIS STAFF IS JUST AS BAD AS HIM."
TAK... TAK... TAK... TAK...
"NO PROBLEM. GOOD WORK TO YOU TOO. BUT THAT SALES DEPARTMENT MANAGER SURE IS A JERK."
OH LOOK. A THANK-YOU NOTE FOR YESTERDAY'S PARTY.
"GOOD JOB YESTERDAY."
HEY, WAIT. YOU BETTER NOT WRITE THAT KIND OF STUFF IN AN EMAIL.
"BUT THE THIRTY PEOPLE IN THE SECTION, EIGHTEEN OF THEM ARE CHEATING ON THEIR SPOUSES."
ALL THE EMPLOYEES EMAIL GETS *MONITORED* BY THE POWERS THAT BE.
WHAT?!
I MEAN THAT THE DEPARTMENT CHIEFS READ EVERY EMAIL MESSAGE YOU SEND OUT.
I DON'T MEAN THE GODS. I MEAN OUR BOSSES.
NAM MYO HO RENGE KYO
CHANT... CHANT...
MAKEUP WON'T HELP. THEY'RE NOT CHECKING HOW YOU LOOK.
BETTER FIX UP, THEN
HMM


WELL, IT SURE WASN'T JUST COINCI-DENCE.
DON'T TELL ME YOU THINK THE STORM GODS ARE READING YOUR MAIL!
GRRR
IT RAINED THE WHOLE VACATION!
THUD
SO? WHAT HAP-PENED?
IT'S TRUE. THE DAY BEFORE VACATION, I SENT AN EMAIL ABOUT HOW MUCH I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO IT.
I'LL RISK MY OWN NECK TO FIND OUT IF IT'S TRUE OR NOT!
NONE OF THAT SOUNDS LIKE VERY CONCLUSIVE PROOF
WHEN I LEAKED SOME COMPANY INFO, I GOT A STOMACH-ACHE
ACTUALLY, AFTER I SENT A MESSAGE BADMOUTHING THE BOSS, MY SHOELACE BROKE
AFTER I CRITICIZED COMPANY POLICY, SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS DISAPPEARED
SO YOU REALLY ARE MONITOR-ING ALL OUR MAIL!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
WHOA! THAT FAST?!
STOMP
WHO ARE YOU CALLING A BLOCK-HEAD?!
LET'S SEE "OUR CHIEF IS A BLOCK-HEAD."
TAK
OH NO! I SENT IT STRAIGHT TO THE CHIEF!
YOU ADDRESSED THAT MESSAGE TO ME!

Chapter 18

Celebrity Hair Stylist

1999

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
WELL? HOW DO I LOOK?
NYA HA HA HA!
WHAD YA WANT?! I'M BUSY!
C'MON! HOW DO I LOOK?
HE STYLED MY HAIR!
I JUST WENT TO A CELEBRITY HAIR STYLIST!
AGH!
YEAH... LET'S SEE THAT PRICEY HAIRCUT.
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOMOYAMA AND A CELEBRITY HAIR STYLIST?
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
AFTER ALL THAT WAITING, HE DID THE WHOLE CUT IN THREE MINUTES!
I KNOW! I MADE THE APPOINTMENT THREE MONTHS AGO!
NOW THAT YOU MENTIONED IT, YOUR HAIR LOOKED AWFUL RECENTLY

EVEN THE BIKE MESSENGER HEARD?
SO THAT WAS THE WORK OF A CELEBRITY HAIR STYLIST, EH?
KNOCK IT OFF!
HEY, COME CHECK OUT THIS FANCY HAIRCUT A GIRL IN OUR DEPARTMENT JUST GOT.
YOU WAITED THREE MONTHS FOR THIS?
A LITTLE TOO SHORT, ISN'T IT?
LET'S SEE!
HA HA HA. SO YOU WENT TO A CELEBRITY STYLIST, EH?
THEN MAYBE YOU CAN BE A CELEBRITY TAXI DRIVER.
I'M GOING WITH A CHAUFFER'S LICENSE, SO I CAN DRIVE A TAXI.
REALLY? WELL, I GUESS COMPANY JOBS AREN'T SO SECURE ANYMORE, ARE THEY?
WELL, I'M THINKING ABOUT QUITTING AND GETTING A HAIR STYLIST'S LICENSE.
IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE...
...
...
BUT CHIEF... EVEN IF HE CUTS YOUR HAIR, IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE.
A HAIRCUT.
MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE HIM GIVE ME A HAIRCUT.
はっはっは
HA HA HA
THIS GIRL IS CLUELESS...
IT'S SURE IS EASY TO HURT A MAN'S FEELINGS...
GEEZ, YOMOYAMA. YOU MADE THE BOSS CRY AGAIN.
IT WON'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE ...

Chapter 19

The Tokaimura Nuclear Accident

1999

YES THEY SAY WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO OPEN THE WINDOWS. I'M REALLY WORRIED.
SAY, HANADA-SAN . DON'T YOU COMMUTE FROM TOKAIMURA?
A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT?!
CHATTER
MRMR
JUST WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED ?
WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT RADIATION
OH MY.. THAT'S AWFUL
NO YOU CAN'T SEE IT AT ALL.
IT'S MORE LIKE A GLOW, ISN'T IT?
DOES RADIATION SPREAD KIND OF LIKE A FOG?
HUMAN ERROR . THAT'S PRETTY SCARY, TOO.
THEY SAY IT WAS CAUSED BY HUMAN ERROR
THAT'S TRUE THERE COULD HAVE BEEN A LOT MORE VICTIMS
BUT IT MIGHT'VE BEEN A WHOLE LOT WORSE, AND TURNED INTO A REAL CATASTROPHE
MAYBE THEY SHOULD COLORIZE IT
THAT'S PRETTY SCARY.
YOU CAN'T COLORIZE RADIATION

THAT'S TRUE. WHEN I GET BOREO, I TENO TO GET SLOPPY
WRMR WRMR
BUT WE ACTUALLY MAKE PLENTY OF MISTAKES OURSELVES
CHATTER
CHATTER
YOU SOUNO LIKE YOU'RE BRAGGING ABOUT IT.
AHEM
PUMP
PUMP
IF I'D BEEN THERE, IT WOULD HAVE GONE CRITICAL TEN TIMES!
OF COURSE NOT!
BUT AT LEAST OUR MISTAKES OON'T CAUSE NUCLEAR MELT-OOWN.
I GOT YELLEO AT FOR GOING OFF TO A CLIENT MEETING WITHOUT TAK-ING ANY OF THE FORMS I WAS SUPPOSEO TO TAKE.
ONCE I GOT YELLED AT FOR FILLING OUT A BUSINESS TRIP REIMBURSEMENT FORM, EVEN THOUGH I HADN'T GONE ON BUSINESS TRIP
WE'RE SO HAPPY THAT WE WORK IN A SAFE JOB WITHOUT RADIATION!
WELL THAT'S BAO ENOUGH, ISN'T IT?
THE WORST WE HAVE IS GET-TING FIREO.
YEAH... NO MAT-TER HOW MANY MIS-TAKES
IT'S GREAT TO WORK IN A PLACE THAT DOESN'T NUCLEAR MELTDOWNS
WHENEVER THEIR HAPPINESS REACHES A CRITICAL MASS, THEY ALL GO OUT DRINKING.
RATTLE
MY WORD... THEY ALL LEFT RATHER EARLY TODAY.

Chapter 20

Seasonal Yomoyama

1999

NO! STOP IT!
"THIS YEAR, I'M REALLY GONNA TAKE UP SCUBA DIVING!"
EVERY YEAR, WHEN SUMMER ROLLS AROUND...
IT'S NOT JUST IN WINTER
WHEN IT COMES TO YOMOYAMA...
GAH!
CHATTER
CHATTER
RIGHT BEFORE PERSONNEL TRANSFERS, SHE ALWAYS SAYS "I'D BETTER TAKE SOME ENGLISH CLASSES."
AND EVERY TIME JUNE GOES BY, SHE SAYS "I WASN'T A JUNE BRIDE THIS YEAR EITHER."
MRMR
MRMR
AT THE END OF EVERY DECEMBER, SHE SAYS "THIS YEAR REALLY WENT BY FAST"
IN AUTUMN, AFTER THE HARVEST MOON, SHE ALWAYS GRIPES THAT "I SHOULD'VE MADE PLANS FOR A MOON VIEWING."
WHEN SPRING COMES, SHE SAYS "I'M GOING TO MAKE PLANS FOR FLOWER VIEWING"
MRMR
MRMR
THAT MEANS COMPARED TO THE AVERAGE, WINTER IS STARTING A WEEK LATE
THIS YEAR, SHE DIDN'T TALK ABOUT SNOWBOARDING UNTIL NOVEMBER FIRST
FOR EXAMPLE, LAST YEAR SHE SAID "I'LL GO SNOWBOARDING" ON OCTOBER 25.
YAMA-NOUE KUMONO SUKE!
THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS USED THE STARS AND THE FLOODS TO KNOW THE SEASONS. IN THE SAME WAY, WE CAN USE YOMOYAMA'S EXPRESSIONS TO MARK THE SEASONS
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CUT THAT OUT !!
I LIVE BY MY YOMO-YAMA CALENDAR!

Chapter 21

The Ideal Bill

1999

I HOPE THEY PICK SOMEONE SUITABLY NOBLE
THEY'RE TRYING TO DECIDE WHOSE FACE TO PUT ON IT
HEY, DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE NEW 2000-YEN NOTE?
THEN WHO DO YOU GUYS THINK SHOULD BE ON IT?
CONVERSATION SOMEWHERE
SOMEONE WITH A GOOD FACE
SHUFFLE
YEAH, IT'S GOTTA BE THE RIGHT PERSON.
BAD IDEA!
HUH ?!
NO, THE SUPER MODEL
THE ANCIENT POLITICIAN ?
わーわー
MRMR
FUJI-KAWA NORI-KA!
WELL, IF YOU ASK ME
I GUESS I'D REALLY LIKE CARRYING THAT BILL IN MY WALLET
YEAH, LIKE DICAPRIO
BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE A HOT YOUNG ACTOR ON THE BILL.
THEY'D NEVER PUT HER ON A BANK NOTE

OH NO! THAT'S RIGHT!
SO IF CASH HAS A DESIGN THAT PEOPLE LIKE, THEY'LL JUST HOLD ON TO THEIR MONEY ALL THE MORE!
THE BIGGEST CAUSE OF THE CURRENT RECESSION IS THAT CASH ISN'T CIRCULATING
SUCH A DESIRABLE BANK NOTE WOULD DESTROY THE JAPANESE ECONOMY..
A HIDEOUS DEMON!
GLINT
LIKE WHAT ?
IT NEEDS A DESIGN THAT WILL MAKE PEOPLE WANT TO GET RID OF IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
KANETAKA, DIRECTOR OF THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT!
THEN IT HAS TO BE SOMETHING BAD, BUT NOT AS SCARY AS A DEMON, LIKE
IF THAT HAPPENED, THE JAPANESE ECONOMY WOULD COMPLETELY CRASH!
2000-YEN NOTES NOT ACCEPTED.
BUT MONEY THAT SCARY, THE STORES MIGHT NOT ACCEPT
I'D BE AFRAID IT WAS CURSED
I WOULDN'T WANT TO WALK AROUND WITH THAT IN MY WALLET
WHOA... I'D GET RID OF THAT MONEY LICKETY SPLIT!
SHIVER
SHAME
THIS ISN'T WORTH SUCH A SERIOUS DEBATE...
A FLY ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR THE 2000, IS IT?
HOW ABOUT GARBAGE?
OR A FLY!
MRMR
A COCK-ROACH!

Chapter 22

Finally, the Year 2000!

2000

MRMR
RRRING
TAK
IT'S THE YEAR 2000!
BEEEEP
HONK
BUT LOOK AT US! THE SAME OLD GRIND! IS THIS ANY WAY TO START A WHOLE NEW ERA?!
OF COURSE I DO. EVERY-BODY KNOWS
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?!
ONE THOUSAND YEARS AGO, IT WAS THE MIDDLE AGES!
DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S IN-CREDIBLE?
YEAH.. SO WHAT?
IT'S THE NEW MILLENNIUM!
GRIP

BUT OUR JOBS HAVEN'T REALLY CHANGED
SOMETHING APPROPRIATE TO A NEW MILLENNIUM, EH?
I WANNA DO SOMETHING APPROPRIATE TO A NEW MILLENNIUM!
ON A SPECIAL NEW YEAR LIKE THIS, YOU EXPECT ME TO MAKE BORING COPIES?
GAH
MAKE SOME COPIES OF THIS.
NO, IT DOESN'T!
あっはっはっは
HA HA HA
PWA
NOW THAT SOUNDS APPROPRIATE FOR A NEW AGE.
WE NEED SOMETHING THAT WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY!
OR "THESE DOCUMENTS ARE TOTALLY MILLENNIUM.
OR JUST "HOLY MILLENNIUM!"
YEAH, LIKE "GOOD MILLENNIUM MORNING" ?
HOW ABOUT WE MAKE "MILLENNIUM" OUR NEW BUZZWORD?
HUH ?!
YOU WROTE 1999 INSTEAD OF 2000.
HEY, YOMOYAMA. THE DATE ON THIS INVOICE IS WRONG.
WE COULD DO OUR JOBS WEARING FUTURISTIC CLOTHES
WHERE'D YOU COME UP WITH THAT OUTFIT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
WE COULD CARVE OUR INVOICES IN STONE
THUNK
THUNK
NOOO!
JANUARY, 2000... YOMOYAMA HANAKO SCREWED UP THE DATE!
WE'VE GOT TO RECORD IT!
SCRIB
SCRIB
A MISTAKE TO BE REMEMBERED FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM!

Chapter 23

The Notorious Office Zodiac

2000

THAT SOUNDS JUST LIKE YOMO-YAMA.
OH NO.. THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT.
SEE?
YOU TEMPORARILY CLAMP ONTO THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
THE BINDER CLIP MEANS...
I'M A BINDER CLIP... OH, UH..
THIS IS NAILING DOWN OUR PERSONALITIES ALMOST PERFECTLY...
I'M "CELLOPHANE TAPE." I STICK TO PEOPLE AND STAY WITH THEM UNTIL THEY PULL ME OFF
I'M A "COPIER." I COPY ALL THE PEOPLE AROUND ME
I'M A "STAPLER." I STICK INTO PEOPLE AND DON'T LET GO.
LET'S SEE... 1950...
I WAS BORN IN 1950, AND MY BLOOD TYPE IS AB
OKAY, MOGE-SAN
WHAT ABOUT ME? OO ME!
EXACTLY LIKE A CLIP
THAT'S JUST LIKE A BINDER CLIP. NO TRUST
BUT THOSE DESCRIP-TIONS COULD FIT ANY-BODY.
わ～ごゆ一日まって悲しいよね～…
AAAGH... THAT'S PATHETIC!!
OFFICE ZODIAC
THESE CHARTS DON'T COVER PEOPLE THAT OLD...

Chapter 24

Keeping the Cold Off

2000

ISN'T IT COLD OUTSIDE?
LET'S GO OUT SOMEWHERE
THERE'S THE LUNCHTIME BELL! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
DING DONG
YEAH, REALLY.
I HATE TO GO TO THAT MUCH TROUBLE.
WE'LL NEED TO PUT ON OUR COATS.
THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD IDEA!
LOOK AT THAT THEY'RE USING THEIR LAP BLANKETS ON THEIR SHOULDERS

えっろ
えっろ
えっろ
HUH ?!
THIS IS REALLY CONVE-NIENT.
AND ONCE WE SIT DOWN, WE CAN STILL USE IT AS A LAP BLANKET
HMM... LET'S SEE. ON A GUY...
THAT'S GENDER DISCRIMI-NATION
BUT ON A GUY IT LOOKS A LITTLE SHABBY, DON'T YOU THINK?
EVEN YOU GUYS ARE WEARING LAP BLAN-KETS?
WHY NOT? WE'RE COLD TOO.
IF ONLY I HAD A SWORD AND A MASK.
IT'S LIKE WHEN WE WERE KIDS
WE CAN MAKE SOME AT THE OFFICE!
YEAH! COOL!
HEY! NOW IT'S CAPE!
YOU SHOULD TIE UP LIKE THIS.
IT'S LIKE A PLAY-GROUND
TASTE MY WRATH!
WHAM
MRMR
TAKE THAT! AND THAT!
WHAT THE BLAZES IS GOING ON?

Chapter 25

Hackers

2000

THE COMPANY COMPUTER WAS ATTACKED BY A HACKER!
WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON?!
カ
MRMR
OH NO!
OH NO!
BREAKS INTO A COMPUT-ER...
SOME-ONE WHO BREAKS INTO A COM-PUTER AND MESSES WITH THE DATA.
WHAT'S A HACKER?
おってん
THUD
HOW DO THEY CLIMB INTO A BOX THIS SMALL?
DOES QUITTING COM-PUTERS TAKE US BACK TO NATURE?
WE'RE THE "OUT WITH COMPUTERS--BACK TO NATURE" ASSOCIATION.
WHO ARE YOU GUYS?
パチパチ
CLAP
NO, SHE'S RIGHT WE THINK THE SAME WAY.
NOT EVEN A CHILD WOULD MAKE A MISTAKE THAT DUMB THESE DAYS!
GAA

THAT'S WHAT A HACKER WOULD DO.
THEY COULD GET IN AND ERASE ALL OUR OVERTIME HOURS SO WE WOULDN'T GET PAID FOR IT
CHATTER
WE COULD BE VICTIMIZED AT ANY MOMENT AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT
THESE HACKER PEOPLE ARE RATHER FRIGHTENING
CHATTER
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
MRMR
HELP US BUILD A CANDLELIT WORLD WITHOUT ELECTRICITY
COME JOIN US, YOMOYAMA!
MRMR
YOU GUYS HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! THAT'S ALL NONSENSE!
THAT'S SOMETHING AN EVIL SPIRIT WOULD DO!
A HACKER MIGHT EVEN COME IN WHILE I'M NAPPING AND TURN MY PILLOW UPSIDE DOWN
THAT'S SOMETHING A HACKER WOULD DO.
THEY COULD GET INTO A DOCUMENT I WROTE AND MAKE A LOT OF SPELLING MISTAKES
CHATTER
CHATTER
THAT'S ONE WAY OF LOOKING AT IT
I SEE
HACKERS MIGHT BE SPIRITS SOUNDING THE ALARM THAT CIVILIZATION HAS PROGRESSED TOO FAR, AND WE SHOULD RETURN TO NATURE.
MOGESAN?
NOT AT ALL. THEY MIGHT ACTUALLY HAVE GOTTEN TO THE REAL TRUTH
NOBODY NEEDS THAT!
ONLY ONE HUNDRED YEN APIECE. HOW ABOUT IT?
SLAP
HACKER BE GONE
THAT WHY I'VE CREATED THESE ANTI-HACKER MAGIC TALISMANS WITH THE POWER TO DRIVE OFF HACKERS.

Chapter 26

The One Shoulder Problem

2001

NOW WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH IT?
BUT THERE WAS NEVER A SINGLE TIME I COULD WEAR IT
I THOUGHT IT WAS THE LATEST TREND SO I GOT ONE
THIS REALLY IS SERIOUS
CHATTER
MRMR
SO DID I.
I BOUGHT A ONE SHOULDER TOO
YOU TOO?
GRAAA
GRAAA
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!
WHEN I SEE THAT POOR THING I NEVER WORE EVEN ONCE, IT'S SO PITIFUL!
BUT WHAT?
IF WE WEAR IT IN WINTER WE'LL FREEZE
THAT DOESN'T MATTER NOW, DOES IT?
IS YOURS A LEFT ONE OR A RIGHT ONE?
BLAH
THE WOMEN ARE AT IT AGAIN
WE NEED TO MAKE A PLAN.
THE NEXT DAY
IF WE ALL DO IT TOGETHER, WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER
LET'S JUST MAKE IT TOMORROW!
OKAY WE'VE GOT TO PICK THE RIGHT DAY FOR IT
SLAM
YEAH! THEN NOBODY WILL FEEL EMBARRASSED!
OKAY! WE'LL HAVE TO ALL WEAR THEM TO WORK ON THE SAME DAY!
DON'T KNOW... IT'S LIKE A SCENE FROM "PLANET OF THE APES."
HELLO?
WHAT'S GOING ON THIS TIME?

Chapter 27

The Virtues of Layoffs

2001

I WONDER IF WE'LL EVER GET LAID OFF.
THE RECESSION IS WORSENING
THINGS ARE GETTING BAD.
UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REACHED 5%
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HOW YOU WANT IT"?
WELL, YOU'RE ONE MOST LIKELY TO BE LAID OFF, MOGE SAN
IF I GET FIRED, I KNOW EXACTLY HOW I WANT IT TO HAPPEN
JUST AS THE CHIEF IS POURING ME A BEER, HE'LL SAY SADLY...
I WANT THE LOCATION TO BE THE INNER ROOM OF A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT.
Forgive me, Moge!
Chief! if it's for the sake of the company ...
I'm sorry For the sake of the company, we need you to step aside!
Chief... you mean ...
You've served the company for many years, Moge

A CLEAN BREAK! THAT'S HOW I WANT IT!
GA GA GA GA GA
You're laid off. No reason to come back.
Yes, sir!
Tamago toshi— Go on a business trip to New York.
Yes, sir!
OH MY!
AAGH! THE PATHOS OF IT ALL!
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA
GAH! THE CHIEF OF ACCOUNTING!
HEH HEH HEH . WHEN IT COMES TO GETTING LAID OFF, I HAVE MY OWN IDEA.
GA GA GA
IT'S LIKE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT A WEDDING PROPOSAL
ARE YOU HEARING THIS?
MRMR
WHEN I HEAR IT, I WANT TO BE JUST THE TWO OF US
HOW ABOUT IF HE WAS PLUCKING THE PETALS FROM A ROSE?
CHATTER
I DON'T WANT THAT. I JUST WANT A SUBTLE HINT
I'D UNFOLD THE NOTE...
YOU'RE FIRED
THWOK
AN ARROW WITH A MESSAGE FROM PERSONNEL WOULD SINK INTO MY DESK!
ON AN ORDINARY DAY, I'D SIT AT MY DESK...
WHA... WHAT IS IT?
I HAVE THE ULTIMATE WAY TO RECEIVE THE NEWS OF BEING LAID OFF
IT'S BECAUSE THEY TRUST THIS COMPANY.
THESE PEOPLE HAVE OVERESTIMATED THEIR IMPORTANCE
I STILL WANT A ROOM AT A RESTAURANT...
TWANG
THAT'S SO COOL!
HOW'S THAT ?!

Chapter 28

To Wipe Away the Gloomy News

2001

FIRST TERRORISM, THEN MAD COW DISEASE
MRMR
MRMR
THE NEWS HAS BEEN SO GLOOMY LATELY.
YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.
YEAH.
MRMR
MRMR
THE MORE I HEAR, THE MORE DEPRESSED IT MAKES ME
GAH...
JAPAN IS FINISHED!
TERRORISM IN AMERICA SENDS A SHOCK WAVE OVER THE WORLD ...
JAPAN'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO STAGNATE...
IT'S THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT... NEGURA SHIGEO!
GLOOM

AND TAKAHASHI NAOKO HELD THE WORLD MARATHON RECORD, EVEN IF JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
BUT THERE'S GOOD NEWS TOO, YOU KNOW! ICHIRO'S NEW BATTING RECORD!
MRMR
AND NOW, COACH NAGA-SHIMA RETIRES!
TO DEEPEN THE DESPAIR, MAD COW DISEASE SPREADS ...
SHIVER
OKAY!
YOMOYAMA SAY SOME-THING TO HIM!
IT'S GETTING GLOOMIER AROUND HIM
JAPAN IS FINISHED!
SOB
NO MATTER HOW FAST A PERSON RUNS, THEY CAN'T OUTRUN A CAR!
HE'S ONLY GETTING WORSE.
BANG
THE KING OF PESSI-MISM!
YOU'RE A KING WITHOUT A CROWN...
SHAKE
A PERSON LIKE YOU ALWAYS SEES EVERYTHING PESSIMISTI-CALLY
HE'S CHEERING UP!
THE KING OF PESSIMISM, EH? THAT MAKES ME KIND OF HAPPY, SOMEHOW.
I JUST THOUGHT IT SOUNDED GOOD.
HOW IS GIVING HIM A NICKNAME GOING TO HELP?

Chapter 29

Real vs. Fake

2001

PAT
REAL FUR!
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
LOOK AT USUTA-SAN...
SSH!
I WANT REAL FUR!
I NEED TO MOVE MY DESK OVER HERE.
WATCH OUT! COMIN' THROUGH!
GAK
THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT!
IS IT A RUG?
DOES THAT MEAN... THE HAIR ON USUTA'S HEAD ISN'T REAL?!
SO... SO HE'S BOTH-ERED...
EVERY TIME WE SAY "REAL FUR," HE TOUCHES HIS HEAD!
GASP
AH HAH
...TO MAKE ROOM FOR THE
NEW RUG!
...
...
...?
YEAH. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE REAL.
NOTHING WRONG WITH FAKE
S-STILL... REAL FUR ISN'T REALLY A BIG DEAL.

Chapter 30

The Human Calendar

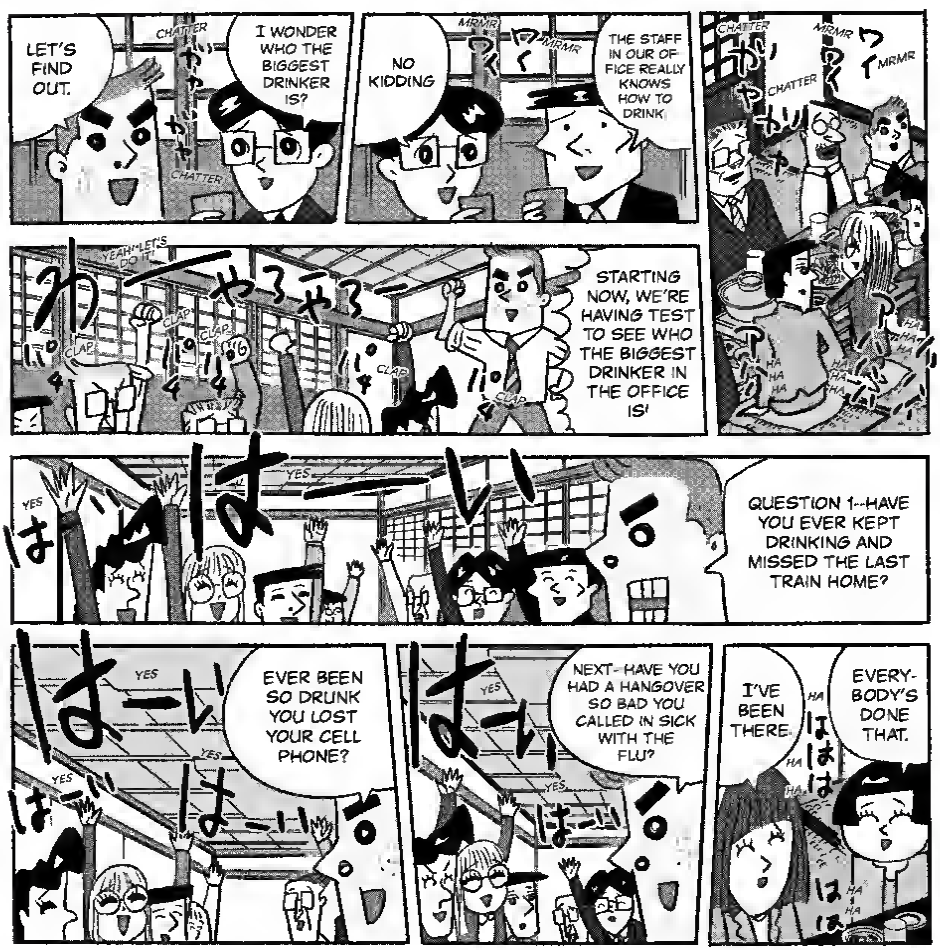
2001

YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF OTHER SCHEDULED LINES!
YOU!! YOU'RE BEHIND ALL THIS ?!
HEH HEH HEH. THE ONE WHO FIGURED IT OUT WAS ME, YAMANOUE KUMONOSUKE-- THE YOMOYAMA WATCHER!
SHWP
NO! REALLY ?!
AND EVERY YEAR, YOU SAY IT EXACTLY ON DE-CEMBER 20!
WELL, I GUESS I DID SO WHAT ?
YOU SAY THAT SAME THING EVERY SINGLE YEAR!
BUT THAT'S REALLY WHAT I THINK
BACK WHEN WE WERE KIDS, SUMMER WAS SO MUCH LONGER.
THIS IS JULY 19.
WELL, MAY-BE..
THIS YEAR'S NEW HIRES ARE SO MUCH MORE COMPETENT THAT I AM.
THIS IS APRIL 14
BUT NOT ON EXACTLY THE SAME DAY
ANY-BODY WOULD SAY THAT.
WELL, YEAH I PROBABLY DID
MAN... IT'S SEEMS LIKE IT WAS JUST NEW YEAR'S.
THIS ONE IS ON JANUARY 16
MRMR
AND SHE HERSELF NEVER REAL-IZED IT
YOMOYAMA SAYS EXACTLY THE SAME THING ON EXACTLY THE SAME DAY EVERY YEAR!
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO TION?
SHE'S THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD WITH THAT TALENT!
DO I RE-ALLY ?
AND RE GARDLESS OF HOW CH LLY IT IS, YOU SAY THIS EVERY OCTOBER 21.
MAN! I WANT TO EAT SOME NABE HOT POT!
HMM
AND AUGUST 31.
DAMN! I DIDN'T DO A SINGLE THING ALL SUMMER!
SHE'D BE USE-FUL IN A PLACE THAT HAD ND CALEN-DARS.
HEY! I'M RIGHT HERE, YOU KNOW!
HA HA HA. NDT USEFUL AT ALL.
CAN THAT TALENT BE USEFUL FDR ANYTHING, I WDNDER?
HA

Chapter 31

King of the Drunks

2002


LET'S FIND OUT.
I WONDER WHO THE BIGGEST DRINKER IS?
CHATTER
NO KIDDING
THE STAFF IN OUR OFFICE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO DRINK
MRMR
YEAH! LET'S DO IT!
CLAP
STARTING NOW, WE'RE HAVING TEST TO SEE WHO THE BIGGEST DRINKER IN THE OFFICE IS!
YES
QUESTION 1--HAVE YOU EVER KEPT DRINKING AND MISSED THE LAST TRAIN HOME?
EVER BEEN SO DRUNK YOU LOST YOUR CELL PHONE?
NEXT- HAVE YOU HAD A HANGOVER SO BAD YOU CALLED IN SICK WITH THE FLU?
I'VE BEEN THERE.
EVERY-BODY'S DONE THAT.
HA

EVER MISTAKENLY GONE INTO A NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE AND FALLEN A SLEEP?
EVER GRABBED AN ORANGE TRAFFIC CONE AND CARRIED IT HOME?
EVER STUCK PEANUTS IN YOUR NOSE AND SHOT THEM OUT?
EVER PUT ON SOMEONE ELSE'S SHOES AND GONE HOME?
YES
はーい!
I AIN'T DAT DRUNK!
HEY THAZ RUDE!
UH
YEAH
CLAP
YOMO-YAMA IS THE QUEEN OF THE DRUNKS!
THE WINNER IS CLEAR..
SNORE
AND HER SHOES!
THOSE ARE HER GLASSES!
HEY, THAT'S HER CELL PHONE
WE BETTER GO AFTER HER
SLAM
UH-OH SHE RAN OUT
NOW THAT'S REALLY THE QUEEN OF THE DRUNKS!
HEH HEH
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
BLINK
ARE YOU OKAY, YOMOYAMA? YOU DRANK A LOT LAST NIGHT.

Chapter 32

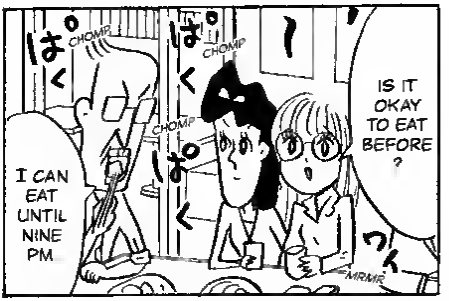
Eenie, Meenie, Meinie, Moe

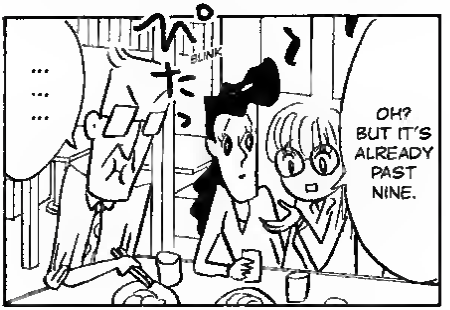
2002

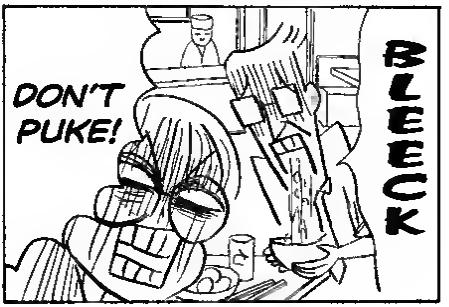
WHAT'S WITH THAT MOURNFUL SIGH?
AAAH...
AAAAH...
THEN WHAT IS IT?
HOW CAN YOU MAKE FUN OF ME WHEN I'M SUFFERING?!
OR JUST PRETENDING YOU'RE A STEAM TRAIN?
ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING?
BUT AFTER ALL THIS TERRORISM, I DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE SHOULD CANCEL OR NOT!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO FLY OVERSEAS FOR OUR HONEYMOON!
THE AUTHORITIES ARE ON FULL ALERT NOW IS THE SAFEST TIME
BUT THERE'S NO ACCOUNTING FOR LUCK
MRMR
BUT IT'S HER HONEYMOON! SHE CAN'T CANCEL THAT
WHAT IF SOMETHING HAPPENED? YOU'D BE KILLED!
BUT YOU CAN'T LIVE YOUR LIFE IN FEAR
OR ELSE THE TERRORISTS WIN!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE CAREFUL
YEAH. THAT TERRORIST STUFF IS SCARY

WE'LL HAVE TO LET THE GOOS OECIOE!
THIS ISN'T GETTING US ANY-WHERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ENOUGH!!
BUT IT COULD STILL HAPPEN!
THE ODDS ARE PRACTI CALLY ZERO.
HOW CAN YOU ENJOY A TRIP IF YOU'RE WORRIED THE WHOLE TIME?
MRMR
YOU OON'T SAY THAT?
"MAKE HIM PAY"? WHAT THE HECK?
OF COURSE NOT!
IF HE HOLLERS, MAKE HIM PAY. FIFTY DOLLARS EVERY OAY.
DON'T GO
GO
THAT BRINGS BACK MEMO-RIES.
CATCH A TIGER BY THE TOE.
EENIE, MEENIE, MEINIE, MOE
POKE
WE WRITE TWO CAROS– "GO" ANO "DON'T GO."
THAT'S WAY TOO LONG.
BWA HA HA! WHAT WAS THAT?
INKA BINKA BOTTLE OF INK, THE CORK FELL OFF ANO YOU STINK. NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE OIRTY, NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE CLEAN, JUST BECAUSE YA KISSEO A GIRL BEHINO A MAGAZINE ANO MY MOTHER SAYS THAT YOU ARE IT.
I'VE GOT AN EVEN BETTER ONE.
"IF HE HOLLERS, LET HIM GO!'
AAAGH! I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THOSE!
THAT'S HILARIOUS! WHO'S GOT ANOTHER ONE?
WHY A SKUNK?
SKUNK IN THE BARNYARO, PWUE-WEE. WHO COULO OONE IT? NOT ME.
HA HA HA

GULP
MRMR
MRMR
HEY, MOGE YOU HAVE YOUR CHECK UP TO MORROW, DON'T YOU?
THAT'S RIGHT.


CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
IS IT OKAY TO EAT BEFORE ?
I CAN EAT UNTIL NINE PM.
MRMR


BLINK
...
...
...
OH? BUT IT'S ALREADY PAST NINE.


DON'T PUKE!
BLEECK

Chapter 33

The Cold Meeting Room

2002

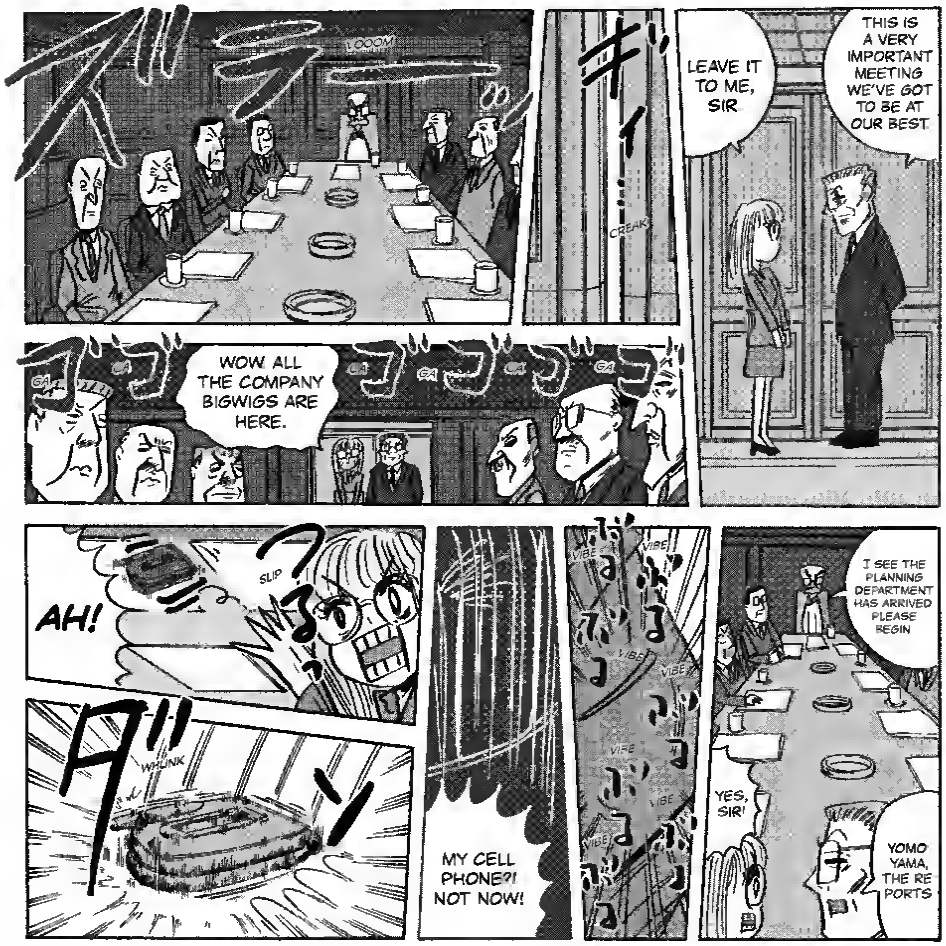
WHY IS IT SO COLD?
ISN'T THE HEAT ON?
SHIVER
BRRR! THIS MEETING ROOM IS FREEZ-ING!
WSSSH
I'M SHIVERING TOO MUCH TO THINK STRAIGHT
WE CAN'T HAVE A MEETING IN A ROOM THIS COLD
IT'S BEEN OIS-ABLEO.
IT'S SO COLD TODAY.
THEN MAYBE YOU'LL STAY AWAKE FOR A CHANGE
IF I FALL ASLEEP IN A MEETING THIS COLD, I'LL DIE!
YEAH! IT'S TOO COLD.
DAMN! IT'S SO COLD I CAN'T SIT STILL
WHAT DO WE DO?
...
LET'S GET STARTED
THIS COLD DOESN'T BOTHER ME!
WHUP

OKAY, LET ME TRY THIS ...
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ALL THAT?
NOW I'M TOO TIRED TO HAVE A MEETING
HUFF
AWRIGHT! I'M GETTING WARM!
WUP
YEAH. THAT OUGHT TO WORK!
WE GOTTA EXERCISE OUR BODIES TILL WE WARM UP!
YOU GUYS STUFFED HEAT PACKS IN YOUR CLOTHES, DIDN'T YOU?!
AH! YOU GOT ME!
HMM... HOW COME THOSE TWO LOOK SO COMFORT ABLE?
SENDING A CHILL DOWN MY SPINE... HOW IS THAT GONNA HELP?!
FROM OUT OF THE TUNNEL CAME A WHITE GHOSTLY FIGURE ...
LOOM
CHAIR-MAN!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU LOT?
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'RE CHARCOAL. WE CAN'T WARM OUR HANDS
SHIVER
IS THAT MAKING IT WARMER?
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!
THUMP
THE "COLD MEETING" IS WHAT MY COMPANY IS KNOWN FOR! MAKES YOU TOUGH!

Chapter 34

Director's Meeting

2002


LOOOM
CREAK
LEAVE IT TO ME, SIR
THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING WE'VE GOT TO BE AT OUR BEST.
WOW ALL THE COMPANY BIGWIGS ARE HERE.
AH!
SLIP
WHUNK
MY CELL PHONE?! NOT NOW!
VIBE
I SEE THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT HAS ARRIVED PLEASE BEGIN
YES, SIR!
YOMO YAMA, THE RE PORTS

KLUK
I'M SORRY! I'M SORRY!
IT'S A CELL PHONE!
AH! WHAT THE...
VIBE
HOW DO WE STOP IT?!
IT'S VIBRATING LIKE CRAZY!
WATCH OUT!
MRMR
GAH!
SHUUU
I'LL PUT HER ON
HELLO YOMOYAMA'S PHONE
PEEP
ALL WE NEED TO DO IS ANSWER IT
GRAB
CHAIRMAN!
AM I GONNA GET FIRED?!
JUST CALM DOWN AND SHUT IT OFF!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THIS!
〈WHO? WHO? WHO WAS THAT? IS THAT YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND? BRING HIM HOME FOR DINNER, WHY DON'T YOU? LET ME MEET HIM.〉
YOMOYAMA, IT'S YOUR MOTHER.

Chapter 35

Email Mistakes

2002

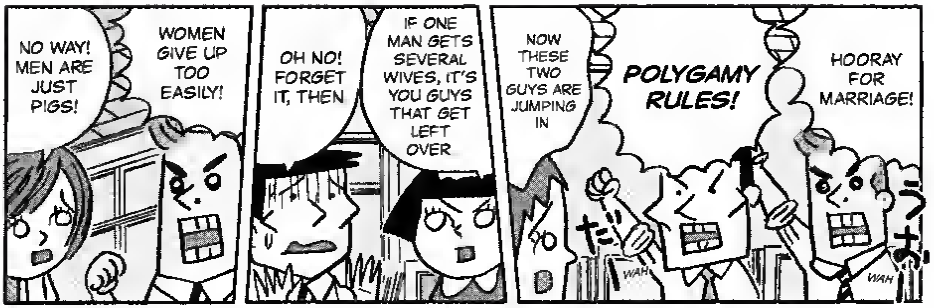
EVERY BODY HAS A DIFFERENT RESPONSE.
WE ALL GET CRAZY WHEN WE SEND OUT A BAD EMAIL.
YOU NEED AN ASSOCIATION FOR THAT?
WE'RE THE ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE WHO, WHEN THEY SEND A MISTAKEN EMAIL, TRY TO REACH OUT AND GRAB IT BACK!
I MISTAKENLY SENT A LETTER FOR MY GIRLFRIEND TO AN IMPORTANT CLIENT.
I MADE A BIG MISTAKE ONCE.
THEN HE LOOKS UP AND DOWN THE COMPUTER CABLE.
UNNO STANDS UP.
MOGE HOWLS.
HUH? WAS SOME BODY HERE?
AND DELETED THE MESSAGE I SENT.
TRASH
I GOT INTO HIS COMPUTER..
I SNUCK INTO THE CLIENT'S OFFICE.
I DASHED TO THE CROSS-TOWN TRAIN
THE MESSAGE IS STILL IN THE TRASH FOLDER.
WASN'T THAT DANGEROUS?
IT WAS JUST LIKE MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

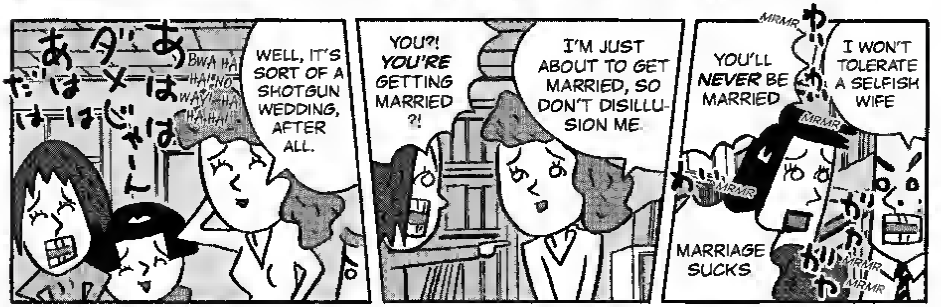
Chapter 36

The Chief of the Morals Department

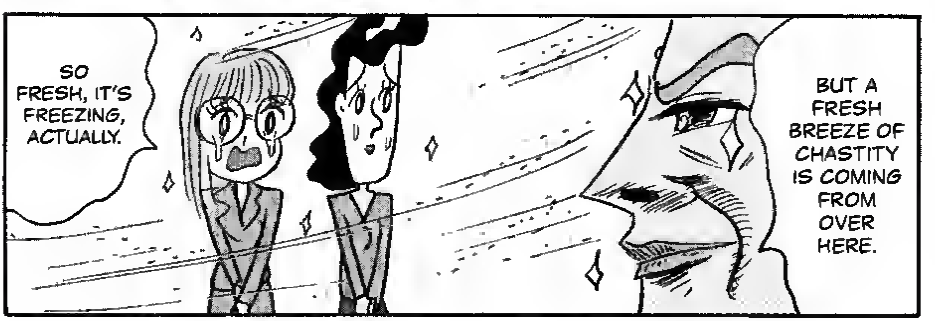
2002

IT'S SAKURAI NOW, NOT YAMADA
HEY, YAMADA. TAKE THIS.
WHAT HAPPENED ?
WHAT?! WHEN DID YOU ...?
I GOT DIVORCED AND TOOK MY MAIDEN NAME BACK
WHAT ?
HEH HEH HEH. WELL, I JUST DID.
DIVORCED? COOL!
WEDDING VOWS MUST NEVER BE BROKEN!
THAT'S SO OLD FASH-IONED!
IT'S THE CHIEF OF THE MORALS DEPART-MENT-- ICHINO-TANAI SEIGI!
DON'T BELITTLE MARRIAGE!


NO WAY! MEN ARE JUST PIGS!
WOMEN GIVE UP TOO EASILY!
OH NO! FORGET IT, THEN
IF ONE MAN GETS SEVERAL WIVES, IT'S YOU GUYS THAT GET LEFT OVER
NOW THESE TWO GUYS ARE JUMPING IN
POLYGAMY RULES!
HOORAY FOR MARRIAGE!
WAH
WAH


WELL, IT'S SORT OF A SHOTGUN WEDDING, AFTER ALL.
BWA HA HA HA!
NO WAY! HA HA HA!
YOU?! YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED ?!
I'M JUST ABOUT TO GET MARRIED, SO DON'T DISILLUSION ME
YOU'LL NEVER BE MARRIED
I WON'T TOLERATE A SELFISH WIFE
MRMR
MARRIAGE SUCKS

HUH ?!
ARE YOU FOR REAL?
IMMORALITY?
THE WIND OF IMMORALITY IS BLOWING THROUGH THIS OFFICE!

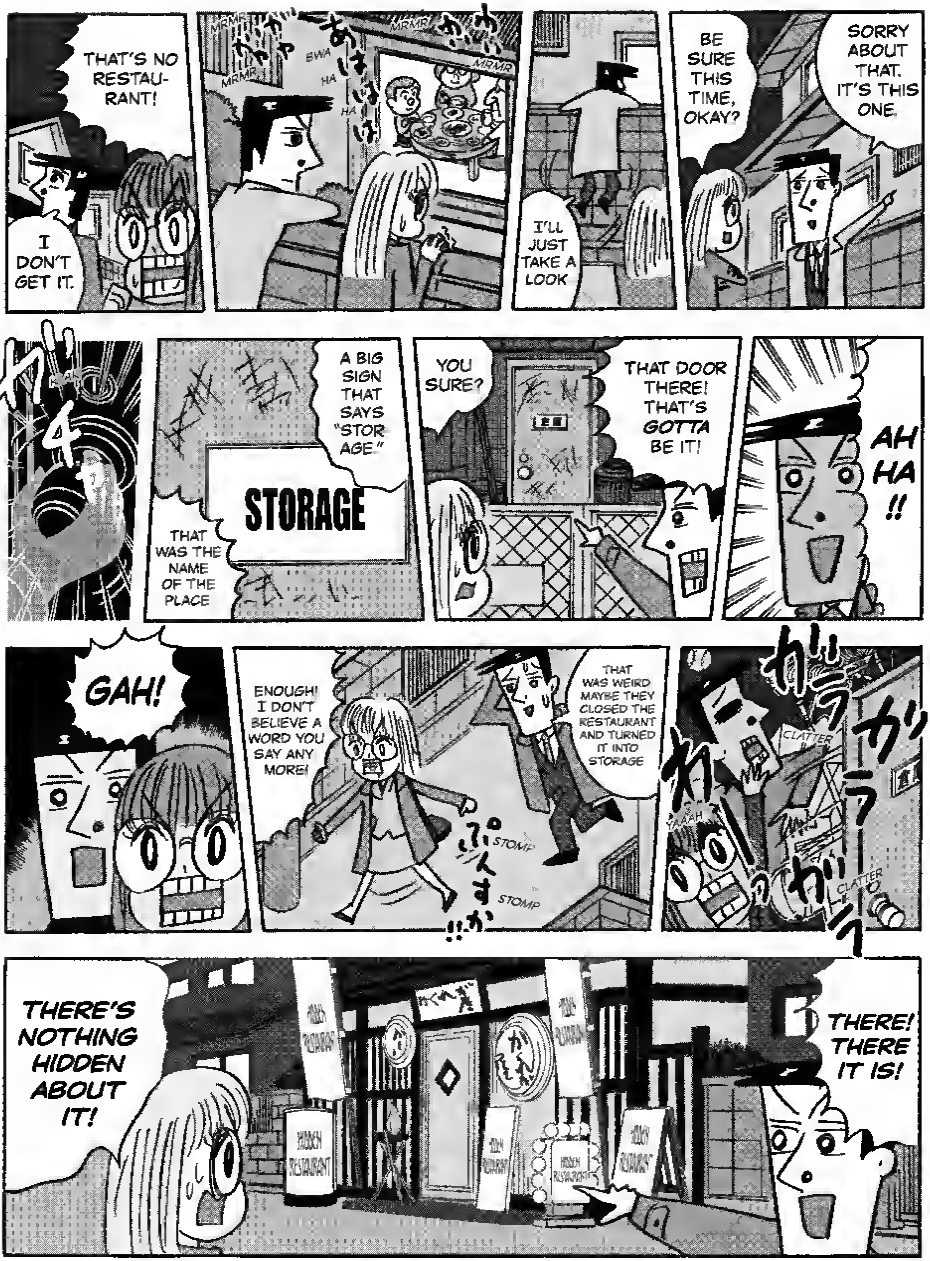

SO FRESH, IT'S FREEZING, ACTUALLY.
BUT A FRESH BREEZE OF CHASTITY IS COMING FROM OVER HERE.

Chapter 37

Hidden Restaurant

2002

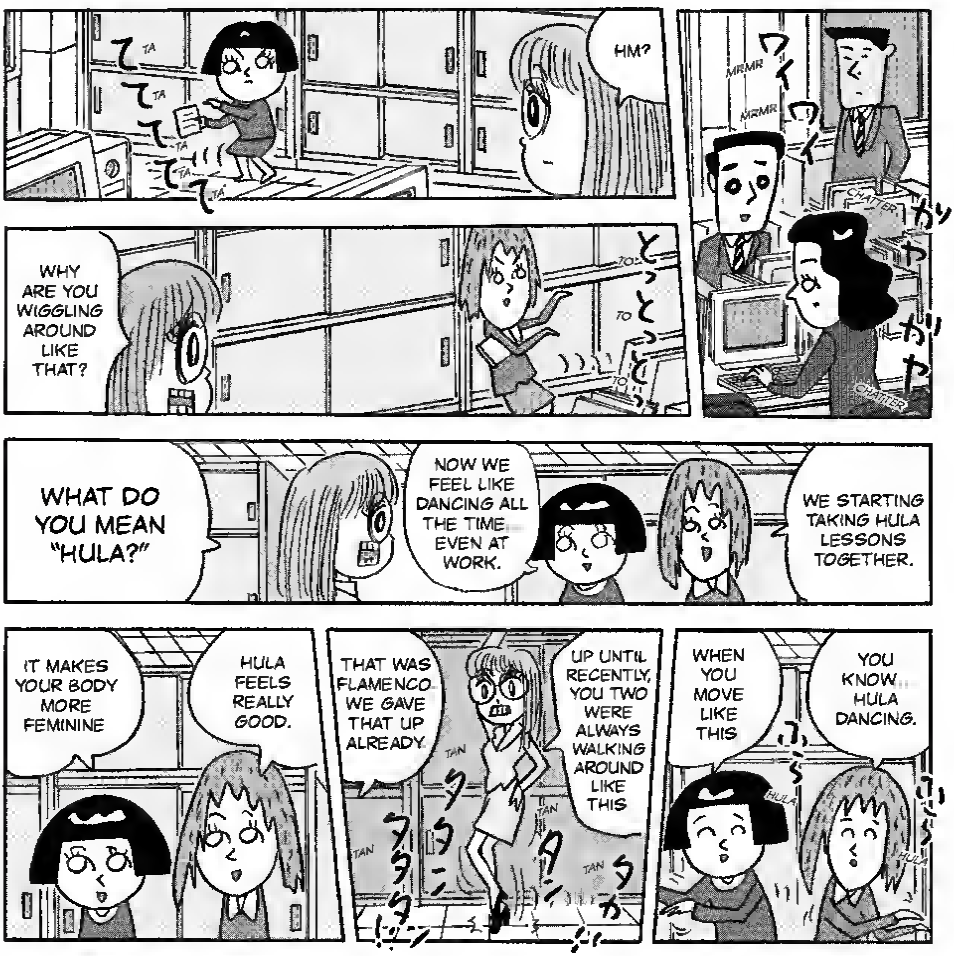
THAT HARSH-NESS OF YOURS IS EXACTLY WHAT I LOVE
YOU'VE BEEN ASKING ME SO LONG, I FINALLY GAVE UP AND SAID YES
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE GONE FOR A DRINK WITH YOU, YOMOYAMA!
A HIDDEN RESTAU-RANT? I LOVE THAT KIND OF THING!
TONIGHT I'VE GOT A SPECIAL TREAT FOR YOU... A HIDDEN RESTAURANT!
WHADYA WANT?
THE MAP SAYS IT'S RIGHT ARDUND HERE
WOW.. IN A RESI-DENTIAL NEIGHBDR-HDDD LIKE THIS
SORRY! OUR MIS-TAKE!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
DING DONG
OF COURSE! IF IT DIDN'T LDDK LIKE A HDUSE, IT WOULDN'T BE A HIDDEN RESTAU-RANT!
THIS CAN'T BE RIGHT. THAT'S JUST A HDUSE
THERE IT IS!!
NO WAY !!


THAT'S NO RESTAURANT!
I DON'T GET IT.
MRMR
EWA HA HA
あはは
I'LL JUST TAKE A LOOK
BE SURE THIS TIME, OKAY?
SORRY ABOUT THAT. IT'S THIS ONE.
A BIG SIGN THAT SAYS "STOR AGE"
STORAGE
THAT WAS THE NAME OF THE PLACE
YOU SURE?
THAT DOOR THERE! THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
AH HA !!
GAH!
ENOUGH! I DON'T BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY ANY MORE!
STOMP
THAT WAS WEIRD. MAYBE THEY CLOSED THE RESTAURANT AND TURNED IT INTO STORAGE
CLATTER
AAH
THERE'S NOTHING HIDDEN ABOUT IT!
HIDDEN RESTAURANT
THERE! THERE IT IS!

Chapter 38

Hula Boom

2002


HM?
WHY ARE YOU WIGGLING AROUND LIKE THAT?
MRMR
MRMR
CHATTER
CHATTER
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HULA?"
NOW WE FEEL LIKE DANCING ALL THE TIME EVEN AT WORK.
WE STARTING TAKING HULA LESSONS TOGETHER.
IT MAKES YOUR BODY MORE FEMININE
HULA FEELS REALLY GOOD.
THAT WAS FLAMENCO. WE GAVE THAT UP ALREADY.
UP UNTIL RECENTLY, YOU TWO WERE ALWAYS WALKING AROUND LIKE THIS
WHEN YOU MOVE LIKE THIS
YOU KNOW... HULA DANCING.

YOU OPEN AND CLOSE YOUR FINGERS LIKE THIS
THIS MEANS STARS
A GENTLE WAVING MOTION
THIS MEANS "WAVES."
CUP YOUR HANDS LIKE THIS
THIS MEANS "FLOWER."
YEAH, I'D HEARD THAT.
AND ALL THE MOVEMENTS HAVE A MEANING.
THE CHIEF IS MAKING SOME MOVEMENTS.
UH-OH!
HMM...
"HURRY UP AND GET TO WORK!"
"GO!"
"HURRY"
THAT'S LIKE A KEYBOARD "WORK!"
HE'S A NATURAL.
THAT'S SOME INCREDIBLE HULA!
AND IT'S CUTE WHEN HE BLUSHES.

Chapter 39

The New Staff These Days

2002

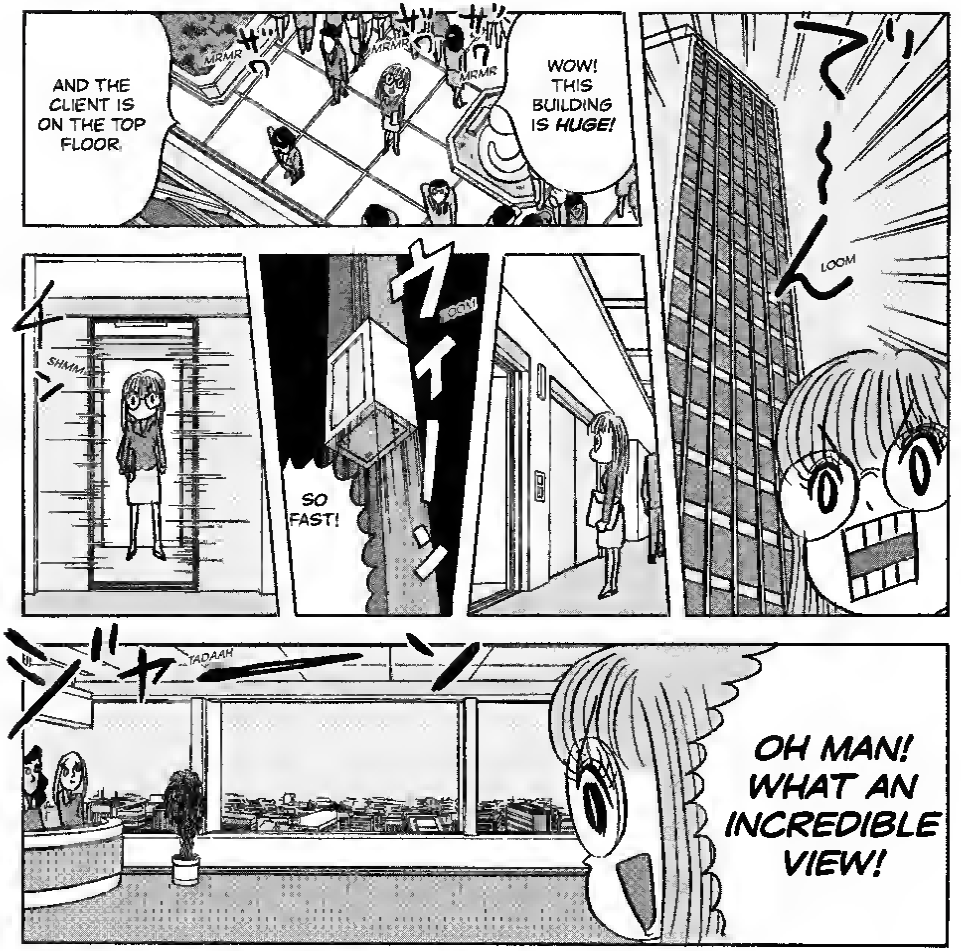
THEY DON'T REALLY FIT IN WITH THE REST OF THE COMPANY, DO THEY?
WHAT WITH THE NEW STAFF THESE DAYS?
I'M SUNAMERI HITOSHI!
LET ME INTRODUCE YOUR NEW COLLEAGUE. HIS NAME IS SUNAMERI.
THEY'RE ALL LIKE THAT NOW.
THAT'S A STRANGE THING TO SAY.
BUT I'M GONNA TRY MY BEST. I HOPE YOU ALL DO AS WELL.
THERE ARE A WHOLE LOT OF THINGS I DON'T KNOW.
HIS NOSTRILS ARE TOO BIG.
I THINK HE'S CUTE.
YOU BULLY.
I'M GONNA CALL HIM SUNA-YAN.
THAT'S HOW THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE THESE DAYS.
SOUNDS LIKE HE'S GIVING US ORDERS.
SUNA-CHAN OR SUNA-YAN SOUNDS LIKE TOO UNCOOL. SO YOU'LL CALL ME HITOSHI.
AS FOR WHAT YOU SHOULD CALL ME ...

...
...
...
ZUM
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE JUST CAME OUT AND SAID THAT.
CHIEF!
GLEAM
キラッ
IN THE FUTURE, MY DREAM IS TO START MY OWN BAND. THIS JOB IS JUST TO MAKE MONEY UNTIL THEN.
I'M SO IMPRESSED! THAT WAS THE COOLEST THING ANYONE EVER SAID TO ME!
JOLT
WELL, IT'S YOUR LIFE TO LIFE. DO AS YOU SEE FIT.
AMAZING!
JOLT
TIME FLIES. A LIGHTHOUSE IS DARK AT ITS BASE.
PLEASE TELL ME MORE THINGS LIKE THAT!
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MET A REAL ADULT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE!
I'LL FOLLOW YOU FOREVER! I'LL BE WITH THIS COMPANY UNTIL THE END OF MY DAYS!
I APPRECIATE YOUR EARNESTNESS, BUT PUTTING YOUR DESK RIGHT NEXT TO MINE IS, WELL--.

Chapter 40

A View of Life

2002



MOM! OVER HERE! MOM!
IS THAT MY HOUSE?!
WHAT THE ...?!
AND IT'S SO CLEAR TODAY, I SEE PRACTICALLY TO THE END OF THE EARTH!
I USED TO PLAY THERE ALL THE TIME...
AND THERE'S THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK!
THERE'S NO WAY SHE COULD SEE ME HERE
SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN WITH A ROUND FACE AND GLASSES. SHE HEADED THERE HOURS AGO
SHE HASN'T ARRIVED YET?
RRRING
OH MY . IT'S LIKE I CAN SEE MY WHOLE LIFE FROM UP HERE..
OF MY OLD HOME-TOWN.
SOB SOB
THE SUNNY STREETS ...
IF YOU MEAN A YOUNG WOMAN WITH A ROUND FACE AND GLASSES, SHE'S BEEN HERE, SINGING SAD SONGS AND CRYING TO HERSELF

Chapter 41

World Cup

2002

YOU'RE RIGHT. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS TICKET...
KOFF
KOFF
YOU CAN'T RISK YOUR HEALTH OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
IT'S JUST A SOCCER MATCH!
YOU'VE GOTTA TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, MOGE!
WHERE DID YOU ALL COME FROM?!
MRMR
THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST YOUR OWN LIFE!
NO, MOGE-SAN! YOU MIGHT INFECT THE JAPANESE TEAM!
IT IS A WASTE NOT TO USE IT. I GUESS I OUGHT TO..
KOFF
LET ME HAVE IT!
NO, I'LL GO!
I'LL GO IN YOUR PLACE!
THE CAUSE OF ALL THE COMMOTION IS GONE. NOW EVERYBODY QUIETLY RETURN TO YOUR JOBS.
AAAGH!!
FIFA
CUP
I'LL GO!
ME!
NO, ME!
YOU REALLY SHOULD GO HOME AND GET TO BED.
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
KOFF
KOFF
THERE! YOU'RE OPEN! SHOOT!

Chapter 42

The Pale-Skinned Demon

2002

SHAA
WHY ARE THE BLINDS CLOSED ON A DAY LIKE THIS?
DON'T OPEN THOSE BLINDS!
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!
I HAVE WEAK SKIN...
WHAT'S WRONG, HAKKI-SAN?
WHAT? NOW WHERE IS THAT SUNLIGHT COMING FROM?!
ZAAA
I SEE.. THE SUNLIGHT IS PRETTY STRONG THIS TIME OF YEAR
WHEW
UV RAYS MAKE ME WRINKLE UP.

GAH!
HELP!
AGH! THE LIGHT IS REFLECTING OFF THAT BALD HEAD!
GLARE
WHAT'S WRONG?
GAAH!!
HEH
CAW
AAGH! A BALD-HEADED TRIPLE REFLEC-TION ATTACK!
KIND OF LIKE A VAMPIRE, ISN'T' SHE?
SHE REALLY LIVENS UP AT NIGHTTIME
BWA HA HA! WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN, I RULE!

Chapter 43

Female Batistuta

2002

KITCHEN
IT'S COMING FROM THE KITCHEN
WHAT'S THAT WEIRD NOISE?
WELL, THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF IN SUMMER
CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY SUMMER
もじゃー
HAIRY
WHOA! THOSE LEGS ARE AS HAIRY AS BAUTISTUTA!
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU...?
AAGH!!
I HAVE A BIG DATE TONIGHT, BUT I FORGOT TO SHAVE, SO NOW I HAVE TO PLUCK THEM...
SHIVER
NO, I'M MARIKO FROM THE DEPARTMENT NEXT DOOR
THE WORLD CUP IS OVER. WHAT IS BAUTISTUTA STILL DOING HERE?

TWEET
CALLING ALL WOMEN!
KITCHEN
BUT TWO OF US JUST AREN'T ENOUGH
AAGH!
OH WELL I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO HELP YOU OUT.
DON'T YOU HAVE A RAZOR?
I LOOKED ALL OVER, BUT COULDN'T FIND ONE
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE KITCHEN?
YOU MEN AREN'T NEEDED!
AAGH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHAT'S ALL THE RUCKUS?
DASH!
WE NEED EVERY-BODY'S HELP RIGHT NOW!
KITCHEN
MRMR
WHAT'S UP?
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
BAM
THE HAIR PLUCKING WASN'T FINISHED IN TIME! AND SO MARIKO SET OUT ON HER DATE.
IT'S NOT NOTHING.
THEN WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
KITCHEN
NO-THING AT ALL
IT TAKES ALL KINDS, I GUESS.
WHEW! THANK GOODNESS.
WHY, THANK YOU!
I KINDA LIKE WILD WOMEN YOU REMIND ME OF BATISTUTA

Chapter 44

Big Breasts? Beautiful Breast?

2002

THEY'RE AWFULLY SKIMPY.
AREN'T THESE INCRED-IBLE?
SWIM-SUITS.
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
OH, C'MON. THAT'S NOT TRUE.
MY BREASTS ARE TOO SMALL.
WHY NOT?
I COULD NEVER WEAR ANY OF THESE
YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR BREASTS ARE SO BIG, YOMOYAMA.
OH, YES, THEY ARE!
THEY'RE NOT SO BIG.
SILENCE

JUST SOME PAPER.
WHAT ARE YOU GETTING?
WELL, I GUESS THEY LOOK OKAY WHEN I'M NAKED.
AND YOUR SKIN IS SMOOTH AND WHITE.
CHATTER
I'LL BET THE MEN JUST CAN'T RESIST THEM.
BUT YOURS HAVE A NICE SHAPE
I'VE GOT TO DO SOME-THING.
NOW THE MEN ARE TOO DISTRACTED TO WORK
MRMR
WOW! I DREW THEM PERFECTLY!
GYAH!
HEY! CUT THAT OUT!
THIS IS WHAT YOUR BREASTS ARE LIKE, YOMOYAMA
SKRIT SKRIT
COULD YOU GET ME SOME BREAST MILK FOR MY COFFEE?
YES, SIR?
...
YOMO-YAMA
AHEM
AAH...
THAT'S SEXUAL HARASS-MENT!
CHIEF! THAT'S AWFUL! YOU WERE LISTENING TO OUR CONVER-SATION, WEREN'T YOU?!

Chapter 45

The Chief and the Haunted House

2002

C'MON! LET OO SOME-THING FUN...
YEAH, BUT IT FEELS A LITTLE WEIRD TO BE HERE WITH CO-WORKERS.
IT WOULD BE GREAT TO COME HERE AS A COUPLE.
I JUST LOVE THIS KIND OF THING!
YES! A HAUNTED HOUSE!
YAHOO! I HAVEN'T BEEN TO AN AMUSE-MENT PARK IN AGES!
THIS PLACE IS RE-ALLY WELL DONE
CHIEF?!
I'M... AFRAID OF GHOSTS ...
N-NO... I'M FINE... HA HA
CHIEF? YOU'RE BEGINNING TO LOOK A LITTLE PALE..

UGH
MRMR
WE'VE GOTTA SAVE THE CHIEF! TAMAGOTOSHI, LOAD HIM ON YOUR BACK!
EVERY-BODY! THIS WAY!
BLUB
THE CHIEF IS FOAMING AT THE MOUTH!
BLUB
BLUB
GYAH
DON'T SCARE THE CHIEF!
WHACK
OUTTA THE WAY! MOVE!
I'LL COVER THE REAR!
MRMR
LET'S GO!
MRMR
KEEP THE DEMONS AWAY FROM THE CHIEF!
COVER THE SIDES!
MRMR
MRMR
OKAY!
OKAY!
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
WE MADE IT!
LOOK! ALMOST THERE!
DA
DA
DA
C'MON! KEEP MOV-ING!
I DON'T KNOW THE CHIEF WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO TELL ME
WHY ARE THOSE GUYS GETTING A DEPARTMENT CITATION?

Chapter 46

The Burden of Foreign Travel

2002

THANKS WHERE DID YOU TRAVEL TO?
IT'S A LITTLE SOMETHING CUTE.
HERE. WE BROUGHT YOU SOME SOUVE-NIRS.
REALLY? THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
JUST THE TWO OF US.
WE TOOK A QUICK TRIP TO HONG KONG.
WHOA! THE GRAY-HAIRED DEVIL!
JUST THE TWO OF YOU ON A LITTLE TRIP, EH?
MEN HAVE THEIR REPUTA-TION TO MAINTAIN!
WHAT, CAN'T MEN DO THAT?
WOMEN ARE LUCKY! YOU JUST DASH OFF OVER-SEAS!

IF HE GOES ALONE, THEY'LL THINK HE'S EITHER A ROMANTIC OR A WACKO.
THE SILK ROAD
THE GALAPAGOS
THE PYRAMIDS
IF THERE ARE TWO, PEOPLE WILL THINK IT'S EVEN MORE SUSPICIOUS
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
IF THERE ARE THREE, PEOPLE WILL THINK THEY'RE LOOKING FOR WOMEN, OR DOING SOMETHING ELSE SHADY.
HEE HEE HEE
HEE HEE HEE
A COUPLE OF MEN CAN'T JUST GO OVERSEAS WITHOUT A REASON.
THEIR REPUTATION?
WHAT IS IT?
BUT I FOUND THE BEST POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
OIL DRILLING
BUSINESS
JOURNALISM
ARCHEOLOGY
TO AVOID SUSPICION, A MAN HAS TO HAVE A GOOD REASON TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS!
SO WHERE DO YOU GO?
WOW!
EVERYONE CAN SEE MY OBJECTIVES.
THAT WAY, I CAN JUST DASH OFF OVERSEAS WITHOUT ANY SUSPICION.
MRMR
MRMR
おーっ
NO FILM
WAAA
EMPTY
I PRETEND TO BE A CAMERAMAN!
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO SOMEWHERE?
MRMR
MRMR
MEN... GO FIGURE.
THAT DOESN'T REALLY MAKE ANY SENSE.
CHATTER
CHATTER
SINCE I DON'T REALLY HAVE AN OBJECTIVE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO.

Chapter 47

Suspicion of Plastic Surgery

2002

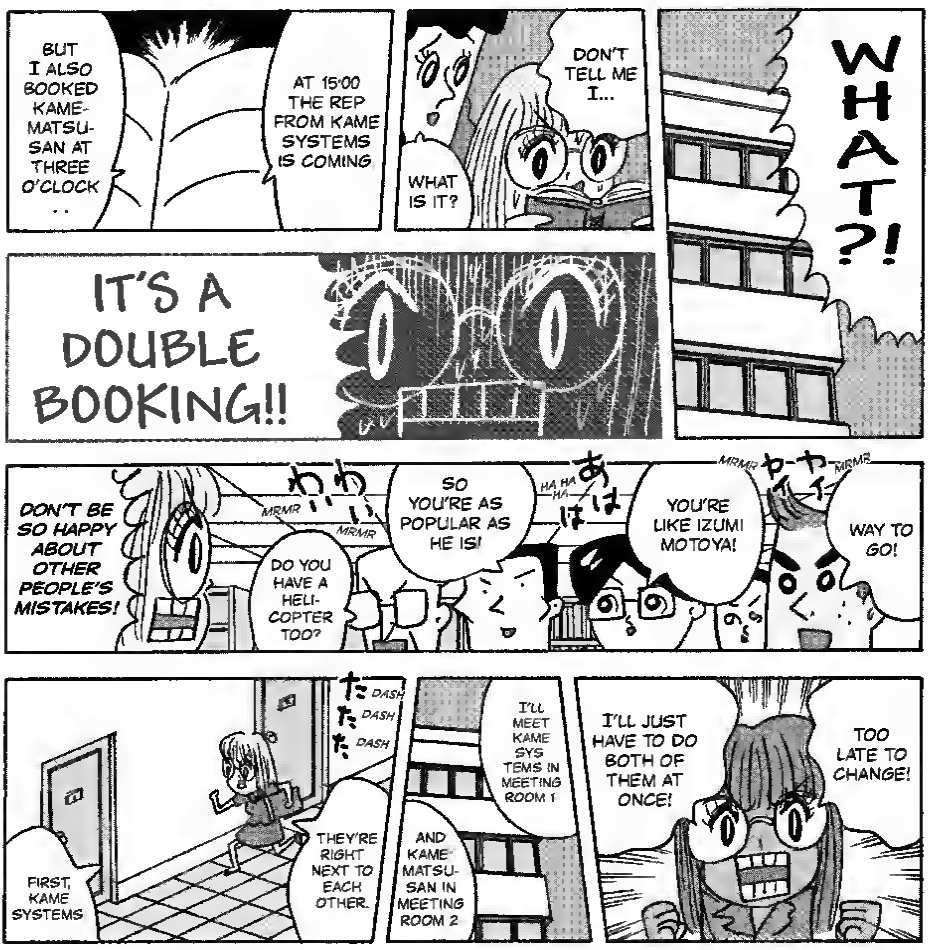
ACCORD ING TO OUR MARKET RESEARCH
SHE'S GOT TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN HER PROJECT.
AKAI SURE IS ENTHUSI-ASTIC, ISN'T SHE?
NOW, ABOUT THE NEXT PROJECT...
AND HER CHIN
THE LINE OF HER NOSE
BUT SOME THING SEEMS DIFFER-ENT
... SURGERY!
OH MY GOD! PLASTIC...
SSH!
WAAAH?!
WSSP WSSP WSSP
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHE DID TAKE A LONG SUMMER VACATION!
IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT?!

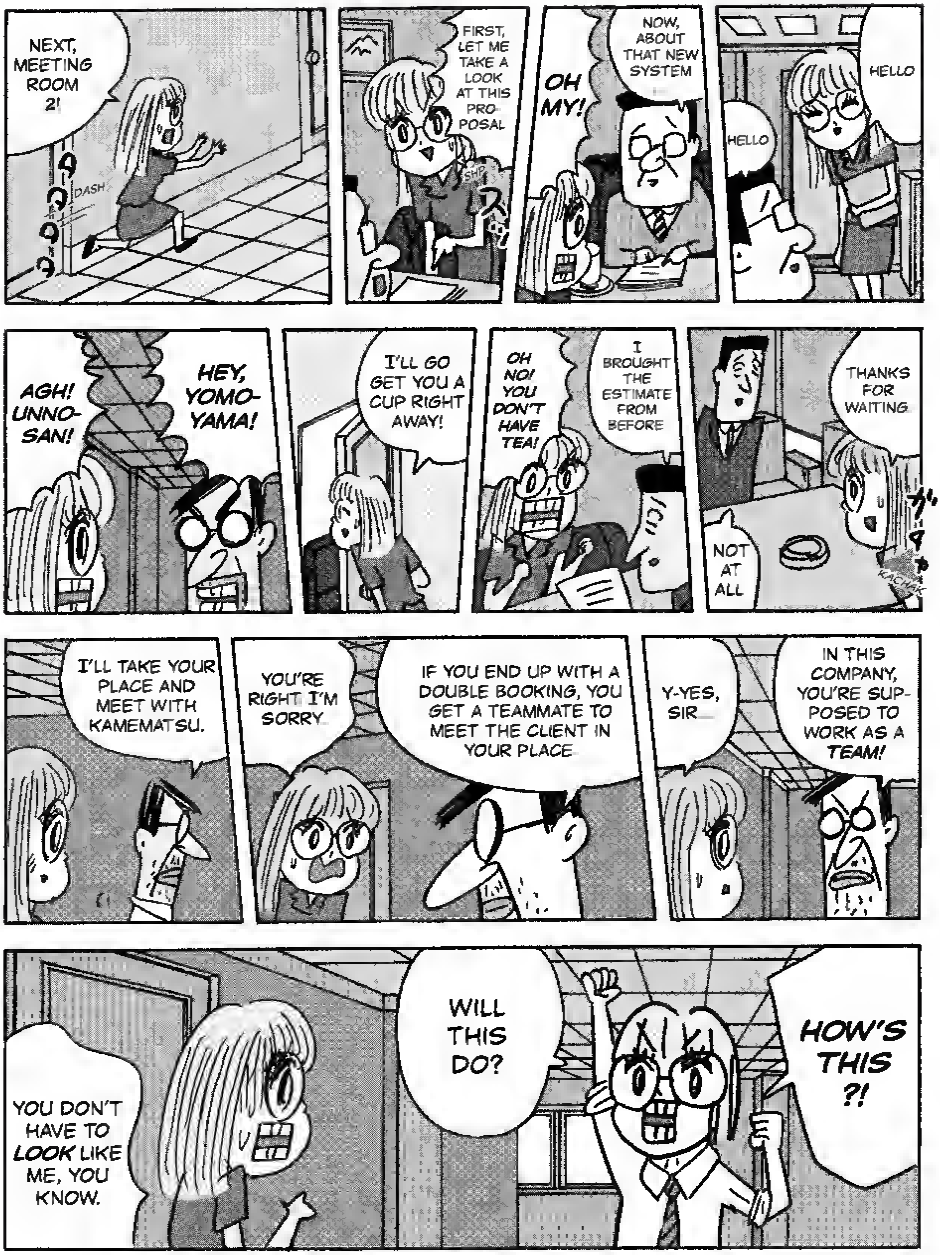
STARE
STARE
SSH!
REALLY ?!
WSSP WSSP WSSP
WHAT'S UP?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME ANYONE HAS VALIDATED MY WORK LIKE THIS.
THEY MUST BE IMPRESSED WITH MY PROJECT.
STARE
HM? WHAT ARE THEY ALL STARING AT?
AAH... I'M SO GLAD I'VE GOT THIS JOB!
STARE
EVER SINCE I WAS A CHILD, I WAS TOO SKINNY TO ATTRACT BOYS. EVERYBODY AVOIDED ME. BUT NOW, EVERYONE'S EYES ARE ON ME ALONE.
SHE DOESN'T REALLY LOOK ANY DIFFERENT TO ME
WAS IT THAT BIG AN ORDEAL?!
SHE HAS NO REGRETS ?!
EVERY-ONE! I HAVE NO REGRETS!

Chapter 48

Double Booking

2002


BUT I ALSO BOOKED KAME-MATSU-SAN AT THREE O'CLOCK . .
AT 15:00 THE REP FROM KAME SYSTEMS IS COMING
DON'T TELL ME I...
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT?!
IT'S A DOUBLE BOOKING!!
DON'T BE SO HAPPY ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S MISTAKES!
MRMR
DO YOU HAVE A HELI-COPTER TOO?
SO YOU'RE AS POPULAR AS HE IS!
HA HA HA
YOU'RE LIKE IZUMI MOTOYA!
WAY TO GO!
FIRST, KAME SYSTEMS
DASH DASH DASH
THEY'RE RIGHT NEXT TO EACH OTHER.
AND KAME-MATSU-SAN IN MEETING ROOM 2
I'LL MEET KAME SYS TEMS IN MEETING ROOM 1
I'LL JUST HAVE TO DO BOTH OF THEM AT ONCE!
TOO LATE TO CHANGE!


NEXT, MEETING ROOM 2!
DASH
FIRST, LET ME TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PRO-POSAL
SHIP
OH MY!
NOW, ABOUT THAT NEW SYSTEM
HELLO
HELLO
AGH! UNNO-SAN!
HEY, YOMO-YAMA!
I'LL GO GET YOU A CUP RIGHT AWAY!
OH NO! YOU DON'T HAVE TEA!
I BROUGHT THE ESTIMATE FROM BEFORE
NOT AT ALL
THANKS FOR WAITING
KACHAK
I'LL TAKE YOUR PLACE AND MEET WITH KAMEMATSU.
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M SORRY.
IF YOU END UP WITH A DOUBLE BOOKING, YOU GET A TEAMMATE TO MEET THE CLIENT IN YOUR PLACE
Y-YES, SIR...
IN THIS COMPANY, YOU'RE SUP-POSED TO WORK AS A TEAM!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LOOK LIKE ME, YOU KNOW.
WILL THIS DO?
HOW'S THIS ?!

Chapter 49

Yomoyama's Way of Life

2002

...FOR A GROUP DATE!
WE'VE SNAGGED A BUNCH OF MEN FROM A FAMOUS BLUE-CHIP FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIRM...
AW RIGHT!!
TONIGHT I WAS GOING TO ASK YOMOYAMA TO DO OVERTIME.
OH NO. THIS IS BAD.
ONE-TWO
ONE-TWO
ONE-TWO
I'VE BEEN GETTING PUMPED UP FOR THIS ALL DAY!
AGH! ALL THE GIRLS IN THE WHOLE DEPARTMENT!
SLAP!
SLAP
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
SLAP
MEN FROM A FAMOUS BLUE-CHIP FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIRM!
MEN FROM A FAMOUS BLUE CHIP FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIRM!
SLAP
LET'S GO-- MEN FROM A FAMOUS BLUE-CHIP FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIRM!
MAYBE I'LL ASK GOMAYASHIKI INSTEAD.

I NEED ONE OF YOU TO QUIT THE PARTY AND STAY LATE!
NO, NO, NOT THAT..
CHIEF, YOU WANT TO COME TOO?!
THAT WON'T WORK!
LOOK! ABOUT THESE MEN FROM A FAMOUS BLUE-CHIP FOREIGN INVESTMENT FIRM...
...
...
...
I'M SORRY BUT WE'VE GOT A BATCH OF DOCUMENTS THAT HAS TO GET FINISHED BY TOMORROW MORNING!
THE MEN ARE ALL OFF ON BUSINESS TRIPS!
MAKE ONE OF THE MEN OO IT!
THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO SNAG A RICH GUY!
ARE YOU CRAZY ?!
YOU GUYS NEED THIS CHANCE FOR MEN MORE THAN I DO!
BUT YOMO-YAMA..
ALL RIGHT THEN! I'LL STAY BEHIND!
FOR SURE! YOU'LL BE REWARDED !!
SOME DAY YOU'LL BE REWARDED !!
BAM
TAK
CHIEF, WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME WITH THIS LIFE STYLE OF MINE, I WONDER ...

Chapter 50

International Information vs. Company Information

2002

THE WHOLE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION HAS SHIFTED WHILE I WASN'T LOOKING.
WHAT IS IT?
AAGH!!
BUT WHO SHOULD WE ASK ABOUT THIS STUFF?
YEAH, WE HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH IT NOW AND THEN.
JAPAN VERSUS NORTH KOREA... AMERICA VERSUS IRAQ...
WH... WHO ARE YOU?!
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
OH, I GET IT.
ALL THAT WORK IN THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT IS SO DISMAL, SO TO LIGHTEN UP I ANALYZE INTERNATIONAL DATA
YOU'RE THE GRAY HAIRED DEVIL--THE CHIEF OF THE ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT!
HEH HEH HEH. I'M KNOWN AS THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SPECIALIST FOR THE WHOLE COMPANY.

THEN, AMERICA'S POLICY ABOUT IRAQ..
IF I WERE TO EXPLAIN, THAT WOULD BE A RATHER LONG TALK. LET'S TRY SOMETHING ELSE.
WHAT EXACTLY DOES "DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" MEAN?
YES, THAT'S IMPORTANT.
SO, THIS STUFF ABOUT NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA...
I KNOW! THEIR PRESIDENT IS THE GUY WITH THE BIG BEARD— HUSSEIN!
NO. THAT'S IKURA.
AREN'T THOSE THE FISH EGGS THEY GET FROM SALMON?
WHEN YOU SAY IRAQ...
YES?
NO, DUMMY! THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH WHY TAMURA IS GETTING DIVORCED.
AND THAT'S WHAT MADE HIS WIFE DEMAND A DIVORCE!
TAMURA FROM THE SALES DEPARTMENT HAD TO CANCEL HIS HONEYMOON TRIP.
I REMEMBER ABOUT TERROR AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER!
YES, WELL... THIS IS ALL CONNECTED TO THE PREVIOUS GULF WAR, AND TERRORIST ATTACK LAST YEAR AT THE WORLD TRADE CENTER.
...
...
...
WE'LL CALL YOU THE COMPANY AFFAIRS SPECIALIST!
YOU REALLY KNOW ALL THE COMPANY DIRT, YOMOYAMA!
HUH? NO... REALLY?!
THE REAL REASON IS BECAUSE TAMURA STARTED HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH A GAUDY YOUNG GIRL!

Chapter 15

The Ridiculous Compromise

2002

MY SHOULDERS ACHE...
MY HEAD ACHES...
MY EYES HURT...
MY BACK HURTS...
AAAGH!!
THIS COMPUTER! SITTING IN FRONT OF A COMPUTER ALL DAY IS ABSOLUTELY WRECKING ME!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
EVEN VIDEO GAMES ARE BAD FOR YOUR BRAIN IF YOU PLAY THEM TOO MUCH.
COMPUTERS ARE BAD. THEY DEFINITELY DAMAGE YOUR HEALTH!
HEHEHEHEHEH
TOLD YOU SO
THE OLD GUYS WHO HATE COMPUTERS HAVE "I TOLD YOU SO" WRITTEN ALL OVER THEIR FACES
HEH HEH HEH
I WONDER IF WORKING AT A COMPUTER TOO LONG WILL MAKE YOU SICK
THERE! THAT'S A SYMPTOM OF TOO MUCH VIDEO GAMES
I'VE FELT REALLY SPACEY LATELY.

ISN'T IT JUST BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW HOW?
WE FORESAW ALL THESE PROBLEMS, AND THAT'S WHY WE DON'T USE COMPUTERS
HUFF
THIS IS THEIR WAY OF SAYING "WRITE LETTERS BY HAND, NOT ON A SCREEN"
YOURS TRULY
SINCERELY
DEAR SIR
THAT'S THEIR WAY OF SAYING "DO YOUR CALCULATIONS WITH AN ABACUS!"
SHAKE
AGH! THEY'RE COMING THIS WAY!
TMP
UH OH THEY'RE GETTING CHARGED UP ABOUT SOME THING
YEAH
WE'VE GOT TO STOP COMPUTER WORK!
IT SHORTENS YOUR LIFE!
ANYWAY, WE DO TOO MUCH ON COMPUTERS
THE WHOLE OFFICE WILL BE NO SMOKING!
SO I'VE GOT A COUNTER PROPOSAL INSTEAD...
DO THAT, AND WE WON'T GET ANY BUSINESS DONE
YOU'VE GOT TO CUT DOWN ON COMPUTER TASKS!
COMPUTER WORK SHORTENS OUR LIVES
GOING NUTS ABOUT THE IDEA OF NOT SMOKING
WHEW...
LIVING TOO LONG ISN'T SO GOOD ANYWAY, IS IT?
WELL, MAYBE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO COMPROMISE
IF COMPUTERS SHORTEN OUR LIVES, AND NO SMOKING LENGTHENS THEM, THE PLUS OR MINUS COMES OUT ZERO.

Chapter 54

Let's Go to China!

2002

THEN WE CAN GO SHOPPING AT THIS STORE RIGHT AFTERWARDS
HA HA HA
YAH
AND RIGHT NEXT TO THE HOTEL, THERE'S THIS GREAT RESTAURANT.
YES! THAT'S IT!
YEAH, REALLY
MRMR
THIS WILL BE SO MUCH FUN
WE THOUGHT WE'D TAKE A TRIP TO SHANGHAI OVER NEW YEARS.
CHINA, DAD.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
CHATTER
THAT'S RIGHT.
JUST THE TWO OF YOU?

DON'T SHOUT "AH" RIGHT NEXT TO MY EAR LIKE THAT.
THAT'S REALLY INTERESTING!
AH...
MRMR
MRMR
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHINA IS THE SETTING FOR MY FAVORITE WORK OF LITERATURE--THE TALE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE INTERESTED IN CHINA.
WHAT, YOU THINK SO, DAD?
WELL, I JUST THOUGHT HOW FASCINATING CHINA IS.
I HAD NO IDEA ABOUT THAT.
OH... IS THE TALE OF THE THREE KINGDOMS FROM CHINA?
WITH THE EMPEROR LIU BEI AND THE MIGHTY GENERALS GUAN YU, ZHANG FEI AND ZHAO YUN IT IS THE GREATEST HISTORICAL EPIC OF ALL TIME
いうとなの
IS TO BE INVITED TO COME ALONG
いどあしょにて
ALL I REALLY WANT
AND AFTER THAT, THERE'S THIS TEA-SHOP.
ANYWAY, DOESN'T THIS SEAFOOD RESTAURANT SOUND ABSOLUTE DIVINE?

Chapter 53

Chill Syndrome

2002

YES, SIR.
IRRRING
HEY, YOMOYAMA!
WHAT'S THAT? WHY DO YOU HAVE BLANKET TIED AROUND YOU?
TO KEEP OUT THE COLD.
WE ALL DO IT.
TAK
TAK
SHMMM
THEY LOOK LIKE SUMO WRESTLER'S APRONS.
I GET HEAD-ACHES
AND IT CAUSES OTHER ILLNESS-ES, TOO.
OUR HIPS GET STIFF.
IT'S NOT JUST OUR HANDS AND FEET THAT ARE COLD.
YEAH. IT'S A BIG PROBLEM.
IT'S NOTHING TO LAUGH AT.

I WATCH MY DIET.
I USE SHIATSU.
AND TAKE LONG HOT BATHS
WE WEAR SWEATERS.
POOR CIRCULATION, ACTUALLY.
CIRCULATION
WHAT'S THE CAUSE?
SNORT
SHUT UP, YOU INSENSITIVE JERKS!!
YOU'RE JUST COLD, THAT'S ALL.
YOU'RE NOT REALLY INJURED, ARE YOU?
GRRR
LET'S ALL GET ANGRY ABOUT ANY LITTLE THING.
SO WE SHOULD JUST GET MAD AND YELL, EH?
YOUR CIRCULATION MUST HAVE PICKED UP.
WHEN I GET MAD LIKE THIS, MY BODY WARMS UP!
HUFF
GAH!
THE WOMEN'S CIRCULATION MAY GET BETTER, BUT THE MEN'S ULCERS ARE GETTING WORSE
WAH
DON'T USE THE SAME RING TONE AS ME!
WHEN YOU LEAVE YOUR DESK, TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU'RE GOING!
GRAH
DON'T PUT YOUR JUNK ON OTHER PEOPLE'S DESKS!

Chapter 54

Priorities of Christmas Eve

2002

YUP CHRISTMAS EVE
WELL, IT'S FINALLY HERE.
JINGLE BELL
JINGLE BELL
HMM... TRY TO HAVE SOME FUN, I GUESS...
TWO GIRLS WHO DON'T THINK AHEAD
WHAT'LL YOU DO FOR THE EVENING?
TWITCH
THE GUYS ALL SEEM KIND OF RESTLESS.
WE'RE WAITING FOR CANCELA-TIONS!
WHY ARE YOU GUYS SO AGITATED?
THEY KNOCK OVER TEA.
AGH!
THEY MISDIAL PHONE NUMBERS
I'M SO SORRY! I MUST HAVE THE WRONG NUMBER!

IT'S ABOUT WHO WE'RE GOING TO SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH.
WHAT ARE THESE CANCELATIONS YOU'RE WAITING FOR?
HE LOOKS LIKE HE JUST WON THE LOTTERY
YAHOO
H-HELLO? YOU'LL COME OUT WITH ME? GREAT!
AH!
BEEP
YOU WILL? REALLY? GREAT! I'VE GOT A WONDERFUL RESTAURANT PICKED OUT!
GAH!
THAT ALL SEEMS PRETTY BIZARRE.
TOP CHOICE
GIRL
GUY
WAIT LIST
EVERYBODY WAITS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO SEE IF THEY CAN GET THEIR TOP CHOICE DATE. IF NOT, THEY MOVE DOWN THE LADDER. GUYS LIKE US HAVE TO WAIT TO SEE WHO CANCELS AND WHO ACCEPTS
FURTHER
YOU SAY YOUR WORK SUDDENLY GOT CANCELED AND YOU'RE FREE? YOU CAN COME TO DINNER WITH ME?
WOW...
YAHOO!!
BUZZ
I'M SO SORRY IT TURNS OUT I'VE GOT TO WORK LATE TONIGHT.
WHAT? AGAIN?
I THINK THAT SHOWS YOU'RE LOWER ON THE PECKING ORDER THAN HE IS.
SO IF HE CANCELS ON SOMEBODY, AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER THAT I GET A CALL THAT SOMEONE'S FREE...

Chapter 55

21st Century Changes

2003

YOU'RE RIGHT. LAST YEAR WENT BY PRETTY QUICK
NOW IT'S 2003!
IT'S ALREADY THE NEW YEAR!
YEAH. I THOUGHT THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WAS ONLY JUST GETTING STARTED.
IT SEEMS LIKE JUST YESTERDAY WE WERE ALL EXCITED ABOUT THE MILLENNIUM.
WEE WEE!
BUT NOW ALL THOSE MILLENNIUM BABIES ARE OLD ENOUGH TO PULL OFF THEIR DIAPERS AND RUN AROUND TALKING!
CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING MORE FUTURISTIC?!
I FINALLY STARTED EATING CARROTS.
IN THIS CENTURY, I'VE ALREADY BEEN DUMPED BY THREE GIRLS.
WELL, I WENT TO THE GAP BY MYSELF FOR THE FIRST TIME
IT'S LIKE I HAVEN'T PROGRESSED AT ALL IN THIS NEW CENTURY!
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER

PERFECT! THAT'S TOTALLY FUTURISTIC!
HOW ABOUT IF WE WEAR ANTENNA ON OUR HEADS?
THAT JUST SOUNDS SILLY.
WHAT IF WE LEARNED TO SAY GOOD MORNING IN KLINGON?
IF WE HAD HOVER CARS, YEAH.
YOU MEAN LIKE RIDING HOVER CARS TO WORK?
WANNA GO OUT TO LUNCH BE-BEEP?
OKAY, I'M ON IT BE-BEEP.
PUT THESE DOCUMENTS TOGETHER BE-BEEP.
YEAH, THE USUAL PLACE BE-BEEP.
MRMR
THIS IS PRETTY EASY. AND TO MAKE IT BETTER
WE CAN END EVERY CONVERSATION WITH "BE-BEEP."
THAT'S... THAT'S SO MATURE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT CHANGE FOR CHANGE'S SAKE. MY WISH IS FOR THINGS TO CONTINUE EVERY DAY AS PEACEFULLY AS THEY HAVE BEEN.
CHIEF, YOU'RE NOT GETTING IN ON THIS BE-BEEP?
THAT ATTITUDE OF HERS LASTS FOR ALL CENTURIES.
COME ON, YOU CHILDREN. AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED TO WEAR THOSE THINGS?

Chapter 56

The Art of Tobacco

2003

HOW'S THIS?
PRETTY GOOD
IT MUST BE HARD BENDING YOUR FACE AROUND LIKE THAT
NO, NOT RE-ALLY.
GYAH!!
I BLOW STRAIGHT DOWN
FWUU FWUU
I SEE SIDEWAYS IS FOR ET-IQUETTE
YOU NEVER BLOW SMOKE STRAIGHT AT THE PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU THAT'S SIMPLE ETIQUETTE
WHOA! HER LIPS!
PUCH
SUUU
OH, REALLY? THEN CHECK THIS OUT!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ALL THE WAYS TO BLOW SMOKE
OH DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE
WHAT ARE YOU ALL CHAT TING ABOUT?
I'VE BEEN SMOKING FOR TEN YEARS!
HA HA HA HA HA
EHA HA HA HA
COOL
WOW! A SUPER SIDE-WAYS!
FWUU
NOT SURE.
WHAT EXACTLY ARE THE WOMEN DOING?
BLOWING OUT THE MOUTH AND SUCKING IN THE NOSE IS THE HIGHEST ETIQUETTE
SHUUU
I'M WORKING ON BLOWING OUT BOTH SIDES AT ONCE
FWUUU
LOOK AT MY SIDEWAYS BLOW
PUCH

Chapter 57

People at Both Extremes

2003

AGGH ...
すー
ACHOO!!
YOU NEED TO REST AT HOME.
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVE A COLD, MOGE.
NO... I CAN'T JUST GOOF OFF AT HOME WHILE THE REST OF YOU TOIL AWAY...
よろ
STAGGER
よろ
STAGGER
...
EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT HERE, MOGE, THE COMPANY WILL GET ALONG JUST FINE.
THE COOL WINDOW GLASS FEELS GOOD
ひんやり
PLINK
BUT...
I CAN'T LET A LITTLE COLD STOP ME FROM FULFILLING MY RESPONSIBILITIES.

HE'S BACK UP!
YEAH... THAT'S TRUE!
GA GA GA
WITHOUT YOU, WE WOULDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
THE COMPANY NEEDS YOU, MOGE!
IT'S YOUR FAULT! WHAT YOU SAID!
OH NO! HE DROPPED DOWN CRYING!
SHIVER
SOB
HEY! THAT'S BACK-WARDS!
MUMBLE MUMBLE MUMBLE
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I GUESS I COULD LEAVE JUST A LITTLE EARLY.
PLEASE GO HOME AND REST.
THAT'S WHY YOU'VE GOT TO STAY HEALTHY!
ACHOOO!!
IT'S MOGE HE'S SICK.
WHAT HAPPENED?
WELL, MAYBE.
IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?
STAGGER
IT'S EITHER ONE EXTREME OR THE OTHER WITH THESE GUYS.
I FEEL A LITTLE SICK, SO I'M HEADING HOME EARLY.

Chapter 58

The Woman Who Can't Clean Up

2003

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, I HAVEN'T SEEN HER AROUND HERE FOR A WHILE.
HAS ANY-ONE SEEN GOMI?
HEY, WHERE'S GOMI?
WHAT?! CLEAN THE STORE-ROOM?!
I ASKED HER TO CLEAN UP THE STORE-ROOM, AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THEN.
HUH? "THE WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP"?
THAT'S NO GOOD! SHE'S "THE WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP!"
GAAH!!

WHERE IS THIS "WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP"?
MRMR
WHAT'S THAT? "A WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP" IN OUR COMPANY?
IT WAS JUST SO COMFORT-ABLE...
SORRY, WHEN I FOUND MYSELF ALONE IN THIS STORE ROOM
NOW HOLD ON!
YEAH, THAT REALLY IS A PROBLEM.
BUT A WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP...
SHE REALLY IS "THE WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP"
WOW THIS REALLY IS A MESS
THIS IS AMAZ-ING.
BUT IT FELT SO COMFORT-ABLE
IT WAS LIKE LIVING IN A GARBAGE DUMP BACK IN THOSE DAYS
ME, TOO. BACK IN MY COLLEGE DAYS, ANY-WAY
I GUESS I'M "THE MAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP"
WELL, I SEE YOUR POINT.
BUT ARE YOU SAYING SHE HAS TO CLEAN UP BECAUSE SHE'S A WOMAN ?!
WE'VE ALL MADE FUN OF HER SAY-ING "THE WOMAN WHO CAN'T CLEAN UP."
AH... THE GOOD OLD DAYS
I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE GUYS...
THIS FEELS GREAT.
I GOT US SOME FOOD.
THERE IS A HOUSE IN NEW ORLEANS

Chapter 59

Yummy Chanko Nabe

2003

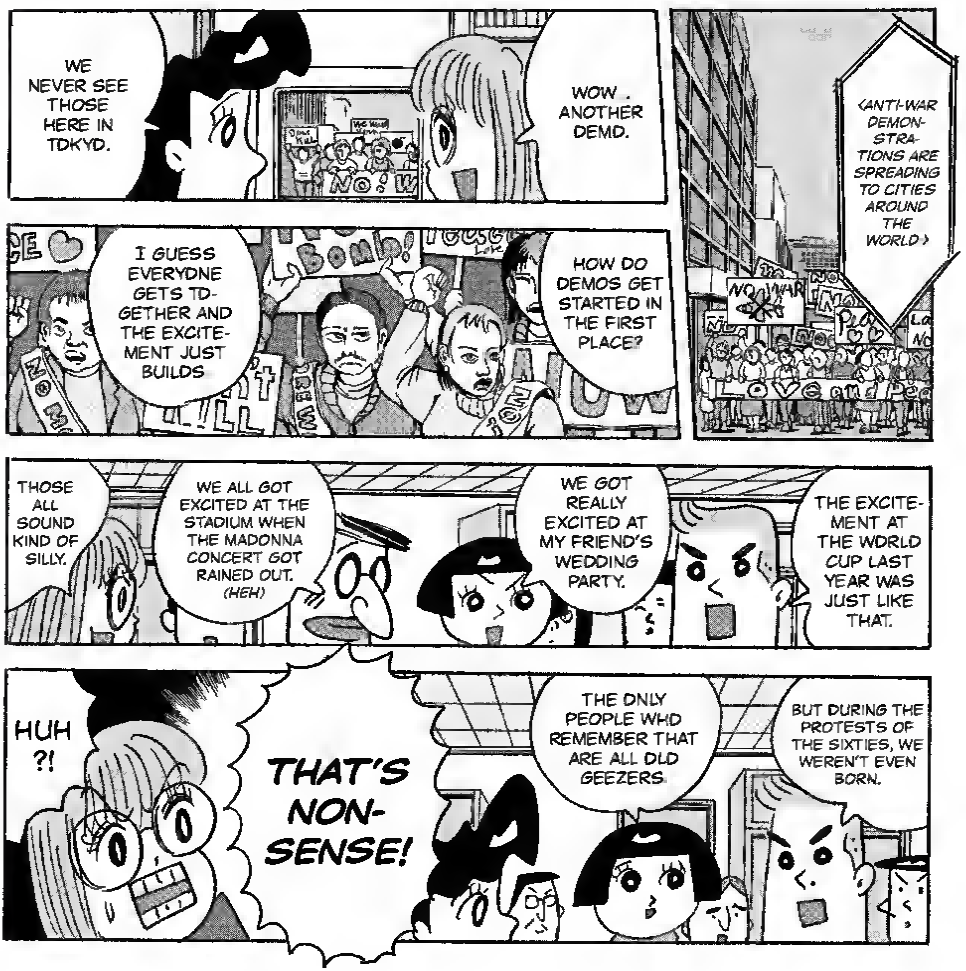
THAT'S WHY THE SUMO WRESTLERS EAT IT!
AND IT'S ACTUALLY REALLY NUTRITIOUS!
ちゃんこ
THIS CHANKO IS DELISH!
THE CHEF PROBABLY USED TO BE A WRESTLER.
CHECK OUT ALL THE PHOTOS OF WRESTLERS HE'S GOT HERE.
すごーい
THEN MAYBE HE WASN'T ONE.
BUT NONE OF THE PICTURES ARE OF HIM.

HE'S JUST A FAT GUY, I GUESS.
IF HE ISN'T AN EX-WRESTLER, THEN WHAT IS HE?
STARE
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES THAT MAKE, AS LONG AS IT TASTES GOOD ?!
OH YEAH? THEN HOW IS THIS CHANKO NABE DIFFERENT FROM ANY OTHER STEW?
...
NO MATTER WHO MADE IT, IT'S STILL CHANKO!
SO THIS CHANKO WAS MADE BY "JUST A FAT GUY"?
YEAH. MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO JURYO.
SO, CHEF DID YOU USED TO BE A SUMO WRESTLER?
OOPS. DID HE HEAR US?
AHEM!
IF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT, DON'T ASK!
IT MUST BE THE FARTHEST PLACE HE EVER WENT TO WRESTLE!
JURYO? WHAT'S THAT?

Chapter 60

Demonstration

2003



REALLY? I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HEH HEH HEH.
WITH THIS GUY HERE, WE MANNED THE BARRICADES.
I WAS A REAL RADICAL BACK IN THE DAY.
DID YOU ACTUALLY DO STUFF LIKE THAT?
WE MUST RISE UP AGAINST POWERS OF BOURGEOIS EXPLOITATION!
THE CHIEF OF ACCOUNTING!
BUT YOU GOT THE MEANING ALL WRONG.
THAT FEELS REALLY EXCITING!
DOWN WITH WORM BURGERS!
DOWN WITH WAR MONGERS!
...
MAYBE YOU NEED TO MAKE IT A LITTLE MORE HIP.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT.
RISE UP AGAINST THE SECRETARY TEA!
WE MUST RISE UP AGAINST THE SECURITY TREATY!
NOW I REALLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S SAYING.
THE SECURITY TREATY IS, LIKE, TOTALLY UNCOOL!

Chapter 61

The Farewell Party

2003

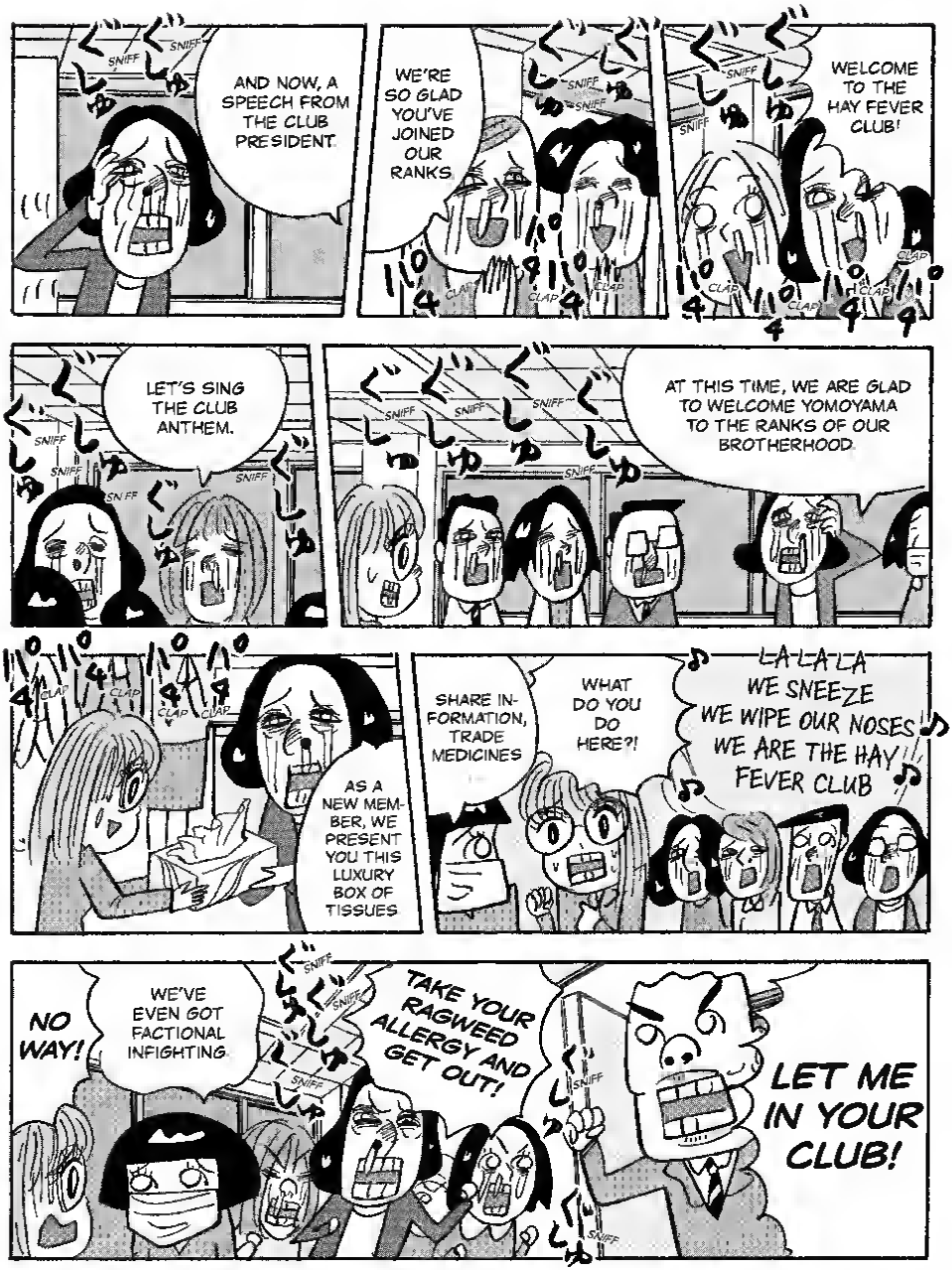
DING DONG
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MOROTA-SAN?
GLOOM
HE SEEMS REALLY OOWN.
MOROTA IS GETTING TRANSFERREO TO A SUBSIOIARY COMPANY.
HUH?
OH... REALLY?
BUT PEOPLE GET ASSIGNED TO SUBSIDIARIES ALL THE TIME
BUT THIS IS A TERRIBLE LITTLE COMPANY IN AN AWFUL PLACE.
I'M IN CHARGE OF HIS FAREWELL PARTY. IT'S SO OEPRESSING...
I WOULON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT TO SAY TO HIM.
LET'S SEE. HOW ABOUT ..

IT'S NO GOOD AT ALL.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING EITHER.
"YOU NOW GET TO SET SAIL ON A SEA OF OPPORTUNITY." GOOD, RIGHT?
HONK
I DON'T THINK IT WILL MAKE HIM FEEL BETTER.
IT DOESN'T REALLY SAY ANY-THING.
"THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SPREAD YOUR WINGS AND FLY." HOW'S THAT?
THE FOOD IN THAT AREA IS AWFUL.
"THE SEAFOOD WHERE YOU'RE GOING IS DELICIOUS!"
MRMR
MRMR
THE SUBSIDIARY IS RIGHT OVER A BIG FAULT LINE
YOU SIMPLE TON
THAT WOULD MAKE ME HAPPY.
TRY THIS... "YOU'LL BE FAR AWAY WHEN THE BIG EARTHQUAKE HITS TOKYO."
SAY, ISN'T IT MOROTA'S BIRTHDAY SOON?
BUT IT'S A GOING-AWAY PARTY.
WE SHOULD AVOID TALKING ABOUT THE TRANSFER ALL TOGETHER
THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
"THANKS FOR ALL YOU'LL DO"?
HE HASN'T DONE ANY-THING FOR ME.
MRMR
WHY NOT JUST "THANKS FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US"
NOW I FEEL EVEN WORSE ...
SO CONGRAT-ULATIONS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY! CHEERS!

Chapter 62

Hay Fever Club

2003


AND NOW, A SPEECH FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT.
WE'RE SO GLAD YOU'VE JOINED OUR RANKS.
WELCOME TO THE HAY FEVER CLUB!
LET'S SING THE CLUB ANTHEM.
AT THIS TIME, WE ARE GLAD TO WELCOME YOMOYAMA TO THE RANKS OF OUR BROTHERHOOD.
AS A NEW MEMBER, WE PRESENT YOU THIS LUXURY BOX OF TISSUES.
SHARE INFORMATION, TRADE MEDICINES
WHAT DO YOU DO HERE?!
LA-LA-LA WE SNEEZE WE WIPE OUR NOSES WE ARE THE HAY FEVER CLUB
NO WAY!
WE'VE EVEN GOT FACTIONAL INFIGHTING.
TAKE YOUR RAGWEED ALLERGY AND GET OUT!
LET ME IN YOUR CLUB!

Chapter 63

The Dreams of a New Hire

2003

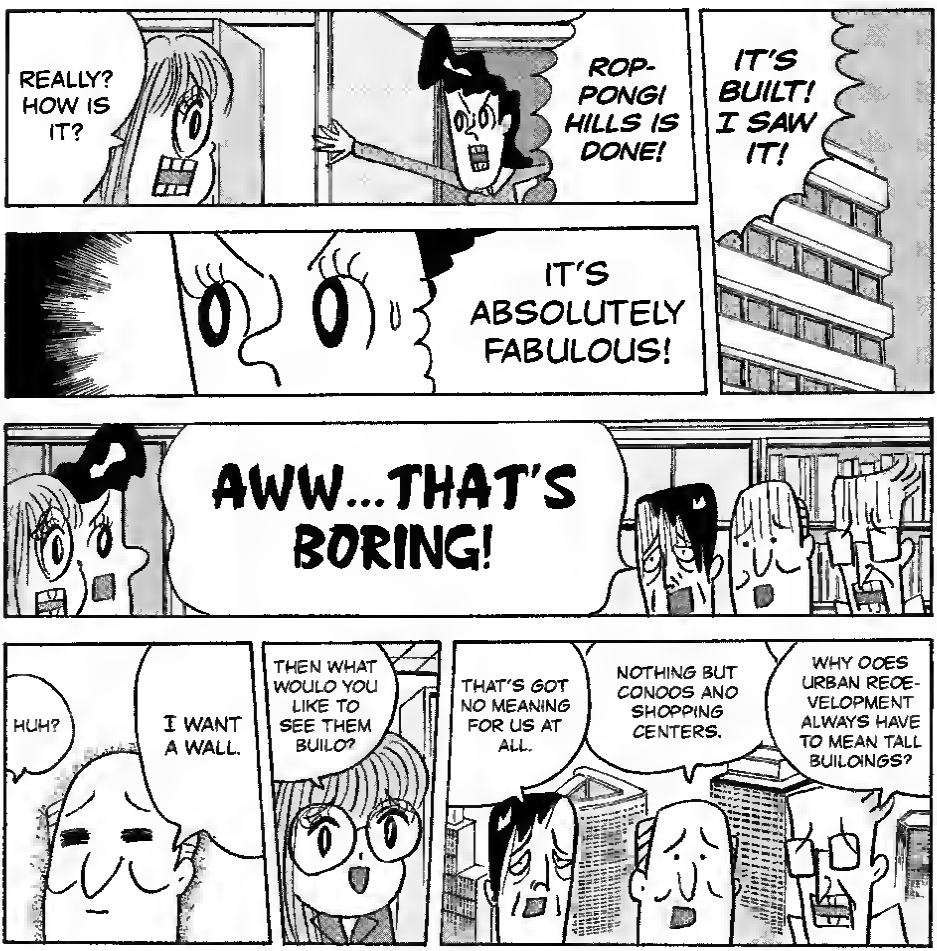
YES, SIR!
YOMOYAMA, SHOW HIM WHERE EVERY-THING IS, WILL YOU?
THIS IS OUR NEW MEMBER, KONA-MAIKI.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
OKAY.
FIRST, LET ME SHOW YOU WHERE ALL THE SUPPLIES ARE STORED
カリカリ
KLAK KLAK
ON TOP ARE THE STAPLES. UNDER THAT ARE THE PAPER CLIPS. THE BINDER CLIPS ARE ON THE RIGHT, AND THE POST-ITS ARE ON THE LEFT
MY DREAM IS TO BE A CLUB DJ.
WHAT'S THAT LONG SIGH FOR?
SIGH
ああー

...
...
...
ON TOP ARE THE STAPLES UNDER THAT ARE THE PAPER CLIPS. THE BINDER CLIPS ARE ON THE RIGHT, AND THE POST-ITS..
KLAK
KLAK
SIGH
NOW YOU'RE AN OFFICE WORKER, SO LET'S GET OOWN TO IT.
BUT I COULON'T LIVE OFF OF IT.
WOW. THAT'S GREAT.
I WAS ALMOST READY TO RELEASE MY CO, TOO..
ON TOP ARE THE STAPLES UNDER THAT ARE THE PAPER CLIPS. THE BINDER CLIPS ARE ON THE RIGHT, AND THE POST-ITS..
KLAK
KLAK
SIGH
OREAMS ARE IMPORTANT, BUT LET'S CONCEN-TRATE ON THE SUPPLIES.
I WAS ALSO PUTTING TOGETHER A OANCE TEAM.
GOOD LET'S GET BACK TO WORK.
EVERY MOMENT IS PRECIOUS, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
FORGET ABOUT THE PAST! YOU NEED TO CONCENTRATE ON WHAT YOU'RE OOING NOW!
AGH!
ENOUGH OF THE WHINING!
I'M TAKING A PICTURE OF THIS PRECIOUS MOMENT TO SEND TO MY GIRLFRIEND.
PIC
KLIK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

Chapter 64

Urban Redevelopment

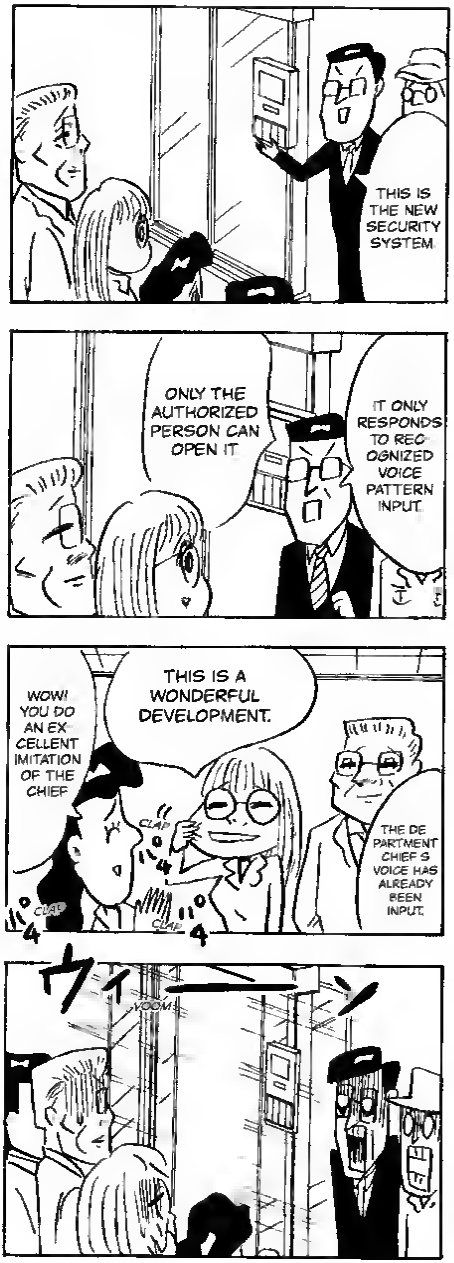
2003


REALLY? HOW IS IT?
ROP-PONGI HILLS IS DONE!
IT'S BUILT! I SAW IT!
IT'S ABSOLUTELY FABULOUS!
AWW...THAT'S BORING!
HUH?
I WANT A WALL.
THEN WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THEM BUILD?
THAT'S GOT NO MEANING FOR US AT ALL.
NOTHING BUT CONDOS AND SHOPPING CENTERS.
WHY DOES URBAN REDEVELOPMENT ALWAYS HAVE TO MEAN TALL BUILDINGS?

I'D RATHER SEE A BOTTOM-LESS SWAMP.
I'D WONDER WHAT WAS HIDDEN BEHIND IT AS I STROLLED ALONG THE WALL. THAT'D BE NICE.
YEAH, REALLY.
THAT'D BE WEIRD.
I WANT TO SEE A SECRET UNDERGROUND BASE!
THAT'S AN AWFUL IDEA.
WHAT ARE YOU THINK-ING?
KEN-I...I WANT THAT BOTTOMLESS SWAMP!
なんでもいいから沼がほしい
WITH TRAPS THAT DROPPED OUR ENEMIES INTO A BOT-TOMLESS SWAMP!
THERE'D BE A HIDDEN ENTRANCE, AND WE WOULDN'T LET IN ANYBODY BUT OUR FRIENDS!
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
AFTER THE CITY IS DESTROYED, IT'S THE ONLY PLACE THAT WOULD SUR-VIVE!
IT'S THESE GUYS WHO NEED SOME REDEVEL-OPMENT
WHY ARE THEY GETTING SO EXCITED ABOUT THIS?
YEAH
THIS IS EXCITING!
NOW LET'S MAKE A SECRET PASS-WORD!

Oshigoto

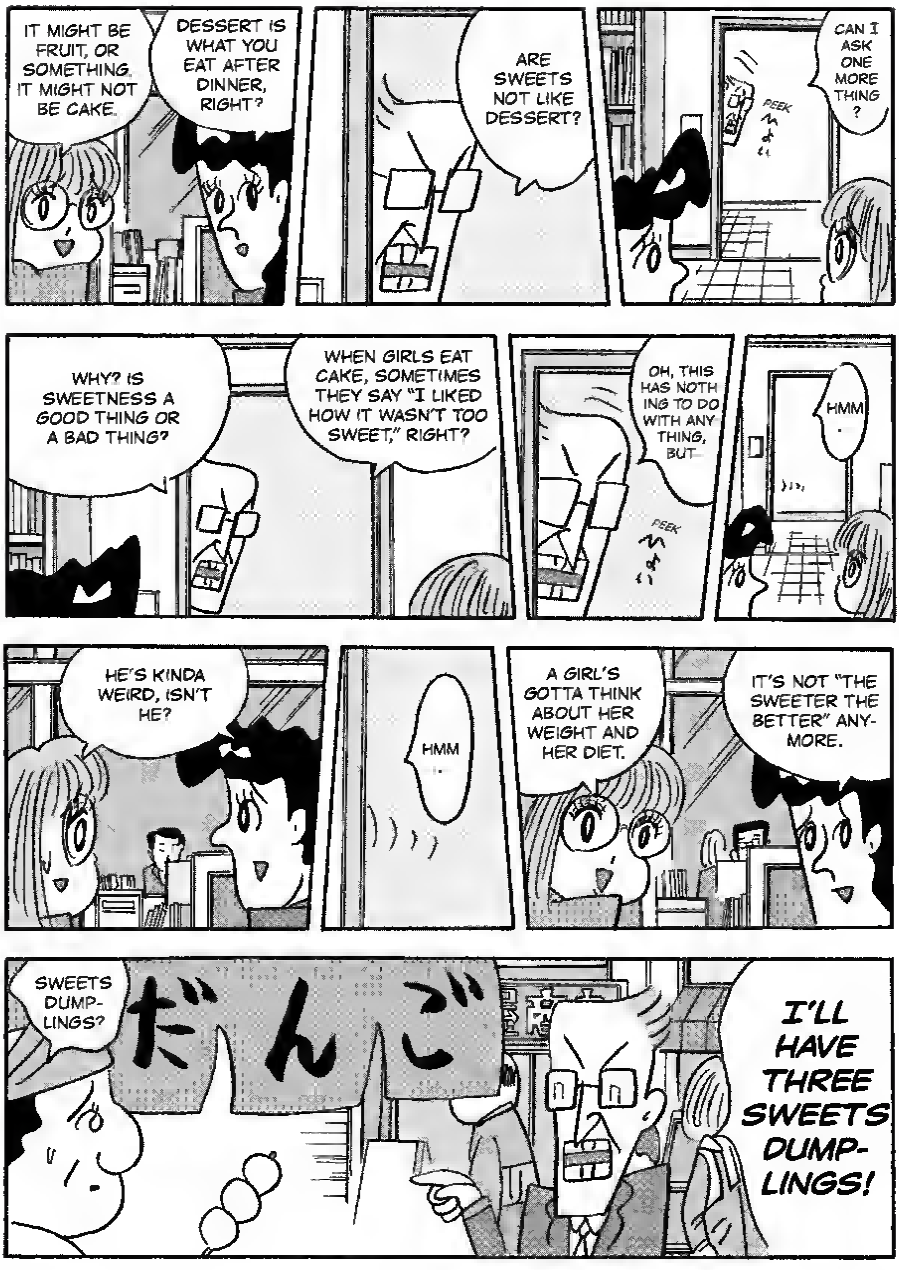
Cast of characters


THIS IS THE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM
ONLY THE AUTHORIZED PERSON CAN OPEN IT
IT ONLY RESPONDS TO RECOGNIZED VOICE PATTERN INPUT
WOW! YOU DO AN EXCELLENT IMITATION OF THE CHIEF
THIS IS A WONDERFUL DEVELOPMENT.
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
THE DEPARTMENT CHIEF'S VOICE HAS ALREADY BEEN INPUT.
ウィーン
VOOM

Chapter 65

No Sweets for Old Men

2003


IT MIGHT BE FRUIT, OR SOMETHING. IT MIGHT NOT BE CAKE.
DESSERT IS WHAT YOU EAT AFTER DINNER, RIGHT?
ARE SWEETS NOT LIKE DESSERT?
PEEK
CAN I ASK ONE MORE THING?
WHY? IS SWEETNESS A GOOD THING OR A BAD THING?
WHEN GIRLS EAT CAKE, SOMETIMES THEY SAY "I LIKED HOW IT WASN'T TOO SWEET," RIGHT?
OH, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY THING, BUT...
PEEK
HMM...
HE'S KINDA WEIRD, ISN'T HE?
HMM...
A GIRL'S GOTTA THINK ABOUT HER WEIGHT AND HER DIET.
IT'S NOT "THE SWEETER THE BETTER" ANYMORE.
SWEETS DUMPLINGS?
だんご
I'LL HAVE THREE SWEETS DUMPLINGS!

Office Factions

2003

THERE WILL BE NO WEEKEND!
MAYBE IF THE WEATHER'S NICE
YOU WANNA GO SOMEWHERE THIS WEEKEND?
HUH? IT'S THE CULT LEADER FROM ACCOUNTING!
THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED BEFORE THEN!
SKYROCKETING CRIME RATES AND NEW DISEASES...
UNENDING ECONOMIC DEPRESSION, RELIGIOUS WARS...
AN APOCALYPSE NEEDS NATURAL DISASTERS EVERYBODY KNOWS THAT
I WAS WITH YOU UNTIL THE NATURAL DISASTERS WHERE'D THEY COME FROM?
SOON NATURAL DISASTERS WILL COVER THE EARTH!

HUH? MY LITTLE SISTER?
HOW STUPID! AND CREEPY AND WEIRD!
SHE'S GOT ALL KINDS OF FOLLOWERS!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BUT I HOPE IT ALL ENDS
I WAS DUMPED BY A GUY. IT'S A SIGN OF THE END TIMES.
THE WORLD ENDS AS SOON AS THE QUARTER DOES
SLOOM
THESE GUYS ARE TAMA* FOLLOWERS
I LIKE EATING CANDY!
CHIHUAHUAS ARE SO CUTE!
I LOVE TAMA!
KYAH
HEH
THE TWO SISTERS THINK IN TOTALLY DIFFERENT WAYS!
THE WORLD'S NEVER GETTING BETTER, SO YOU SHOULD JUST ENJOY WHAT YOU CAN.
CHIEF, THE "CULT LEADER FACTION" AND THE "TAMA FACTION" ARE FEUDING.
YOU GUYS ARE THE DELUSIONAL ONES!
YOU SHOULD STOP DELUDING YOURSELVES AND LOOK AT THE TRUTH!
DOOM
I SEE!
SKRIT
SQUINT
TYPE
WORK
I'M PART OF THE "TOO BUSY DOING OUR JUNE ACCOUNTING TO WORRY ABOUT IT" FACTION!

*Tama: A seal that showed up in the Tamagawa river and became very popular

Chapter 67

The Matrix Reloaded

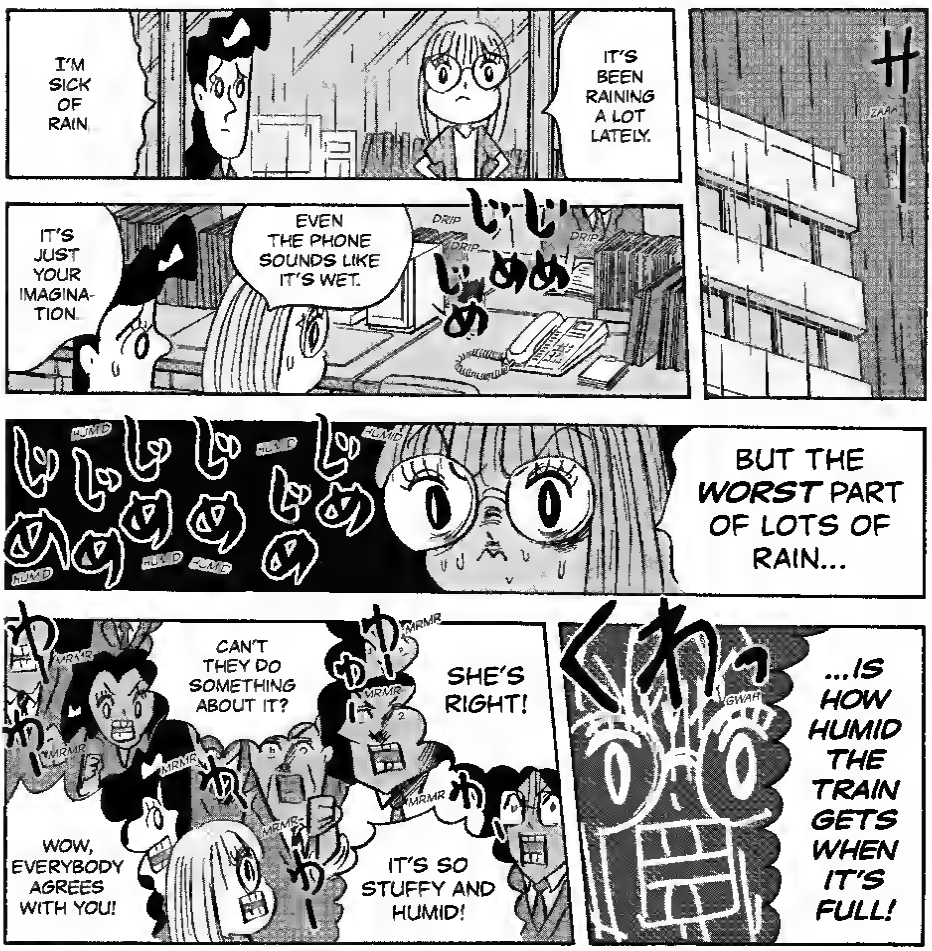
2003

THAT WAS A COLA COMMERCIAL!
AND HE KEEPS GOING UP AND UP
THAT'S THE ONE WHERE A GUY GRABS A POLE
MATRIX, HUH? I SAW THAT MOVIE.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR KNEE'S ABOUT TO SNAP!
SHAKE
I'M GONNA DO MY MATRIX IMPRESSION!
RELOADED.
HEY NOW
THE MATRIX RE-TOADED?
MRMR
ME TOO DODGING BULLETS LOOKS HARD.
HA HA HA
I'D PREFER THE EASIER WORLD EVEN IF IT'S A LIE
STRETCH
I'LL DO IT TOO!
HEY THAT LOOKS FUN!
ME TOO!
WATCH ME DODGE BULLETS!
CLAP
SWING
RRRING
SOMEONE PICK UP THE PHONE.

Chapter 68

Tropical Train

2003



FERNS WILL START GROWING EVERY-WHERE!
HUMID
HUMID!
IF A TRAIN LIKE THAT GOES AROUND THE YAMANOTE LINE THREE TIMES...
THE INSIDE OF THE TRAIN'S A JUNGLE, ISN'T IT?
I HEARD IT GETS AS HUMID AS A TROPICAL RAINFOREST!
IT'S FILLED WITH MONKEYS!
TEN TIMES AROUND...
SLITHER
AN ANACONDA IN THE RACK!
FIVE TIMES AROUND...
YOU'RE TARZAN, THE KING OF THE JUNGLE!
WOW
WHAT ARE YOU MEN TALKING ABOUT?!
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE ON AN ADVENTURE EVERY DAY!
MRMR
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA GET TO GO TO A TROPICAL JUNGLE NOR MALLY
IF YOU THINK OF THE TRAIN AS A JUN-GLE, THAT MAKES IT FUN!
IT'D JUST BE A SAUNA !!
HUM
WHAT IF WE ALL DRESSED LIKE TARZAN ON THE TRAIN?

Chapter 69

Yomoyama the Energy Saver

2003

HUH? ME?
I'M APPOINTING YOMOYAMA OUR OFFICIAL ENERGY SAVER FOR THE DIVISION
SO WE'RE BEING TOLD THERE ISN'T ENOUGH ELECTRICITY THIS YEAR.
WAIT? ME? REALLY?
BUT BUT
CLAP CLAP CLAP
WAY TO GO, YOMOYAMA! YOU'RE THE ENERGY SAVER!
CLAP CLAP
WOW! THAT'S GREAT!
A-ALL RIGHT! I'LL DO MY BEST TO SAVE ENERGY!
HUH? LOOK'S LIKE SOMETHING'S BUGGING HER.
GLOOM
SHE'S REALLY GETTING INTO IT
WAH GRAB GRAB WAH
WAIT! I DIDN'T SAVE!
KLIK
TURN OFF COMPUTERS WE AREN'T USING
WE'LL TURN OFF THE FLUORESCENT LIGHTS DURING LUNCH
PUSH

LIKE THAT PILE OF PAPERS THAT'S ABOUT TO FALL OVER
CLUTTER
CLUTTER
WE'LL USE THE WASTED ENERGY HERE IN THE OFFICE!
FAN
WE HAVE TO GENER-ATE MORE HERE IN THE OFFICE.
SAVING ENERGY ISN'T ENOUGH
WE CAN GENERATE HEAT FROM UNNO'S TOBACCO!
CLICK
WE CAN USE IT TO POWER A WIND GENERA TOR!
SPIN
OR TAMA-GOTOJI'S HEAVY BREATH-ING...
GRUNT
WE CAN USE THE ENERGY OF IT FALLING TO POWER A TURBINE!
ROAR
SUNNY
YEAH... WHAT SPOT IN THE OFFICE GETS THE MOST SUN?
SOLAR BAT-TERIES ARE YOUR MOST REALISTIC OPTION, I THINK
OR GET POWER FROM MOGE S SHAKING HIS LEGS!
SHAKE
IT'S HEAVY! AND IT'S HOT!
SO WE'LL BE INSTALLING SOLAR BATTERIES ON YOUR BACK.

Chapter 70

English Lessons for Men

2003

I WENT TO HONG KONG!
I WENT TO HAWAII!
DID YOU GO OVER-SEAS?
I JUST GOT BACK FROM SUMMER BREAK!
I FELT REALLY LIBERATED.
IT'D BEEN A WHILE SINCE I HAD.
GOING OVER-SEAS IS ALWAYS SO FUN.
THE MEN WHO WENT OVERSEAS SEEM KIND OF DOWN.
THAT'S RIGHT! EVERY TIME I GO OVERSEAS I TELL MYSELF I NEED TO TAKE ENGLISH LESSONS.
DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT LAST TIME?
I HAVE TO PRACTICE ENGLISH!
I REALIZED THIS WHEN I WENT OVERSEAS.
WHAT'S WRONG?

I KNOW! WHY DON'T WE ALL JUST SPEAK IN ENGLISH HERE AT THE COMPANY?
BUT I NEVER DO!
I ALWAYS TELL MYSELF I'M GONNA PRACTICE ENGLISH FOR NEXT TIME.
I THINK YOUR PERSONALITY MIGHT BE THE PROBLEM HERE.
I COULDN'T TALK TO CUSTOMS AND I BROKE DOWN CRYING
I COULDN'T ORDER AT A RESTAURANT AND ALMOST STARVED TO DEATH.
A FOREIGNER TALKED TO ME AND I RAN AWAY
TEARS
TEARS
SOS
WHAT?!
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD WITH ENGLISH.
WHY ARE YOU ALL INTRODUCING YOURSELVES?
<UH.. MY NEMU IS...>
<WACCHU YA NAME?>
<UMM... UH HOWDA YADU?>
SOUNDS GREAT! OK, START!
I ALWAYS TALK TO THE FOREIGN GIRLS IN THE PHILIPPINE PUBS AND RUSSIAN PUBS IN BROKEN ENGLISH!
WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?!
YOU? WHY?!
THEY'RE UP TO NO GOOD!
WHAT ARE THE MEN DOING?
LET'S GO STUDY SOME ENGLISH RIGHT NOW.
そそくさ～

Chapter 71

The Sorrow of the Hanshin Fans

2003

YOU'VE BEEN BUSY LATELY, MOGE.
FLAP
AND IN THE MORNING I READ ALL THE ARTICLES I CAN ON THE HANSHIN TIGERS.
SURE AM. AT NIGHT I WATCH ALL THE SPORTS PROGRAMS.
DING DONG
THAT'S RIGHT! BEEN ONE FOR TEN YEARS!
WOW, ARE YOU A HANSHIN TIGERS FAN?!
BLOWS FREE AND CLEAR ...
HA HA HA!
HUH ?!
OH, THE DOWN-WARD WIND OF ROKKO ...
Tiger
HA HA HA!

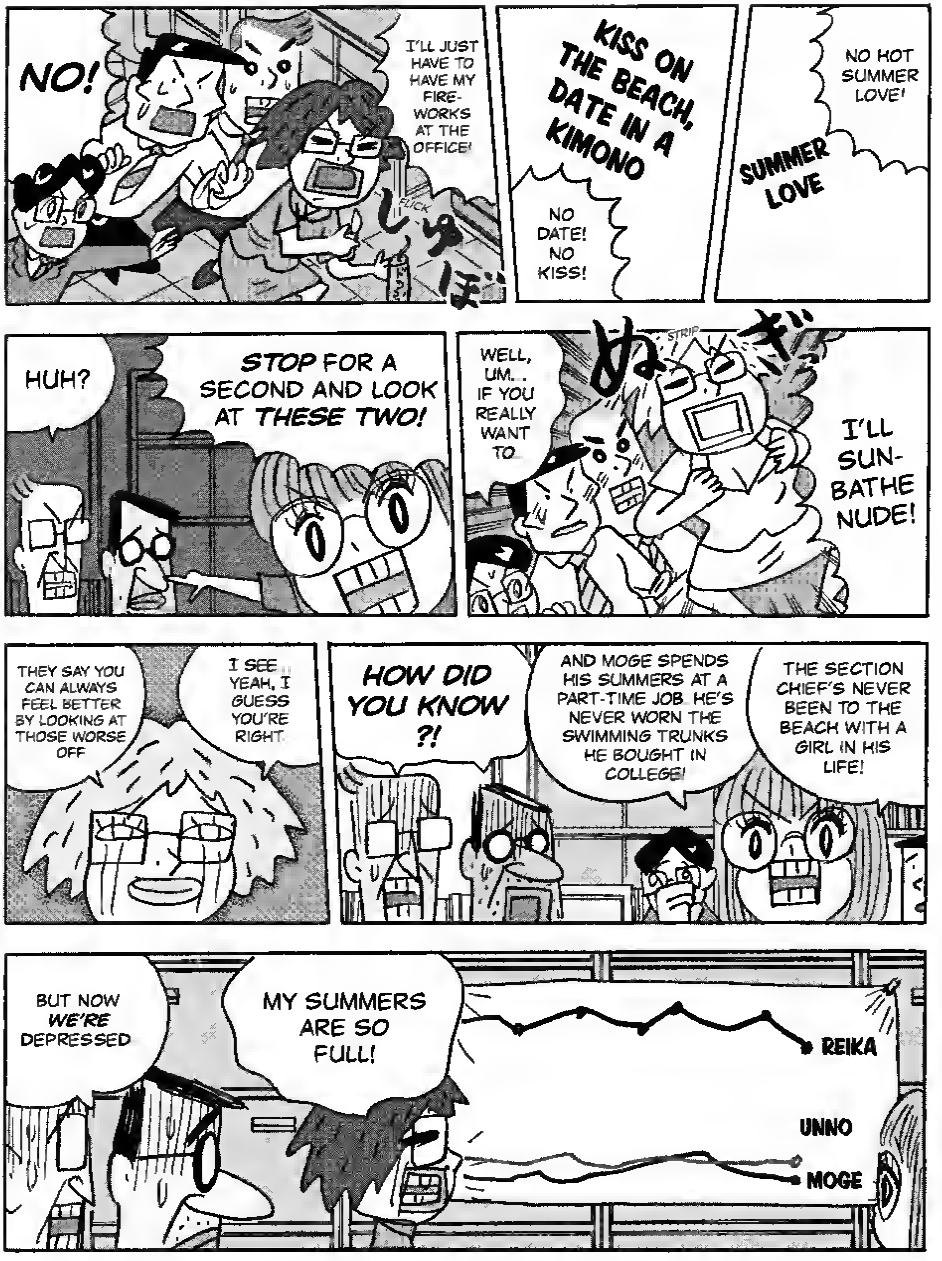
YOU'RE JUST HITTING A BALL WITH A STICK.
WHY OO MEN GET SO INTO BASEBALL?
WOW, ALL THE HANSHIN FANS ARE COMING OUT OF THE WOOO-WORK!
ME TOO! ME TOO!
I'M A FAN TOO!
THE TIGERS ARE GREAT, AREN'T THEY?
MRMR
REALLY? THE CHIEF?!
GUESS WHAT? THE DIVISION CHIEF'S BEEN A FAN FOR FORTY YEARS!
YOU GUYS ARE ALL LATE TO THE PARTY!
THE PAIN OF LOSING GOT TO BE TOO MUCH FOR HIM.
CHEERING THEM ON GAME AFTER GAME...
OF COURSE NOT! AFTER BEING A FAN FOR FORTY YEARS...
BUT HE OOESN'T SEEM HAPPY AT ALL.
かわいそうに
HOW SAD
WHAT'S HANSHIN? WHAT'S BASEBALL?
AND HE'S REPRESSED IT ALL!

Chapter 72

There's Always Someone Worse Off

2003

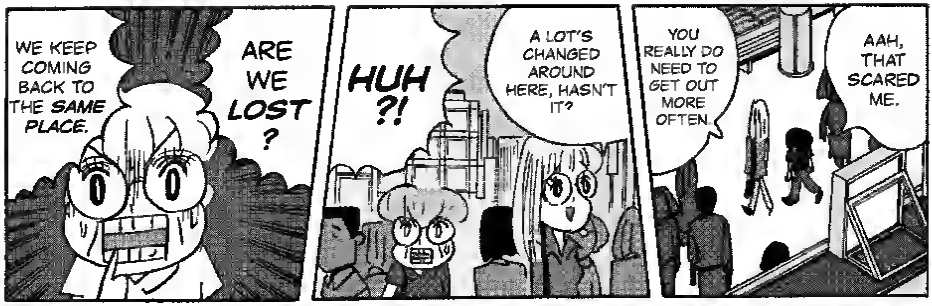
GIVE ME BACK MY SUMMER! GIVE ME BACK MY SUMMER!
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SUMMER?! IT WAS SO COLD! THAT WAS NO SUMMER!
ARGH!!
H
UNROLL
THINGS TO DO THIS SUMMER: SWIMMING, DIVING, CAMPING,, FIREWORKS
LOOK AT ALL THE STUFF I WANTED TO DO THIS SUMMER!
IT'S NAT-SUNO REIKA
WAAH !!
BUT THIS YEAR I ONLY GOT TO DO THREE PERCENT OF WHAT I WANTED TO!
9 00 01 02 03
SHADDUP! EVERY SUMMER SHOULD BE LIKE THIS WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG!
PLANS: SWIMMING, DIVING, CAMPING, FIREWORKS, SUMMER LOVE, KISS ON THE BEACH, DATE IN A KIMONO
AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE GREEDY?


NO!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO HAVE MY FIRE-WORKS AT THE OFFICE!
FLICK
KISS ON THE BEACH, DATE IN A KIMONO
NO DATE! NO KISS!
NO HOT SUMMER LOVE!
SUMMER LOVE
HUH?
STOP FOR A SECOND AND LOOK AT THESE TWO!
WELL, UM.. IF YOU REALLY WANT TO
STRIP
I'LL SUN-BATHE NUDE!
THEY SAY YOU CAN ALWAYS FEEL BETTER BY LOOKING AT THOSE WORSE OFF
I SEE.. YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
HOW DID YOU KNOW ?!
AND MOGE SPENDS HIS SUMMERS AT A PART-TIME JOB. HE'S NEVER WORN THE SWIMMING TRUNKS HE BOUGHT IN COLLEGE!
THE SECTION CHIEF'S NEVER BEEN TO THE BEACH WITH A GIRL IN HIS LIFE!
BUT NOW WE'RE DEPRESSED
MY SUMMERS ARE SO FULL!
REIKA
UNNO
MOGE

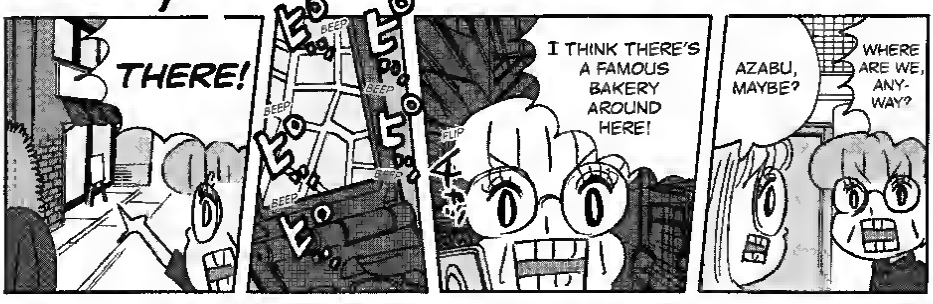
Chapter 73

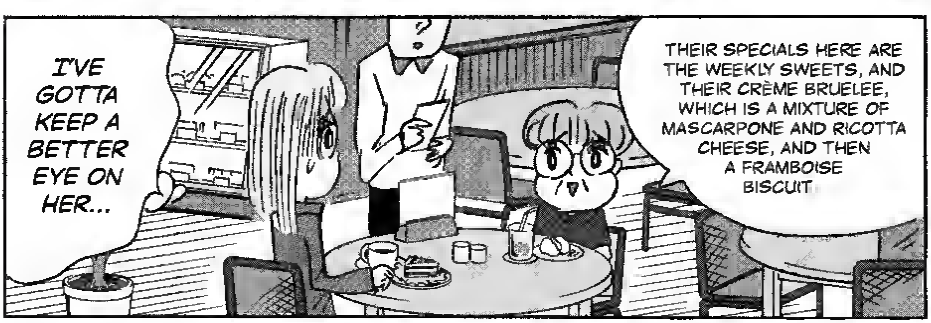
A Mom to Beware Of

2003


WE KEEP COMING BACK TO THE SAME PLACE.
ARE WE LOST?
HUH?!
A LOT'S CHANGED AROUND HERE, HASN'T IT?
YOU REALLY DO NEED TO GET OUT MORE OFTEN.
AAH, THAT SCARED ME.

HE'S FINE!
WATCH OUT!
DASH
OH NO, HE'S ABOUT TO DRINK OUT OF THAT CUP WITH THE LID STILL ON!
THERE'S LOTS OF THOSE AROUND HERE
SEE? WE JUST WENT BY THAT COFFEE PLACE!
STAR


THERE!
BEEP
I THINK THERE'S A FAMOUS BAKERY AROUND HERE!
FLIP
AZABU, MAYBE?
WHERE ARE WE, ANY-WAY?


I'VE GOTTA KEEP A BETTER EYE ON HER...
THEIR SPECIALS HERE ARE THE WEEKLY SWEETS, AND THEIR CRÈME BRUELEE, WHICH IS A MIXTURE OF MASCARPONE AND RICOTTA CHEESE, AND THEN A FRAMBOISE BISCUIT

Chapter 74

Pessimism

2003

I'M GOING TO TREAT MYSELF AND BUY A PAIR.
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
THOSE BOOTS ARE NICE.
SIGH...
MRMR
MRMR
DING DONG
AND EVEN IF WE DID, THERE'S NO TELLING WHEN OUR HUSBAND WOULD GET LAID OFF. YOU THINK WE'VE GOT MONEY TO SPARE?
WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, NONE OF US ARE EVER GOING TO GET MARRIED.
HEY, IT'S YAMADA FROM ACCOUNTING
THERE'S A GREAT RESTAURANT NEARBY.
BY THE WAY, YOU HUNGRY?
LET'S PASS ON BUYING BOOTS
SHE'S RIGHT WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE.
SIGH...

SIGH...
I'LL HAVE THE FOIE GRAS WITH APPLE-SAUCE AND A TRUFFLE SALAD.
I'LL HAVE THE SEAFOOD FETTUCCINI WITH MUSH-ROOMS.
CHATTER
CHATTER
MRMR
THEN TRY TO REDUCE THE PERCENT YOU SPEND ON FIXED EXPENSES, THEN LUXURY GOODS.
FIRST MAKE A BUDGET.
WHAT AM I SUP-POSED TO DO?
YOU KNOW, THAT SINGLE ORDER JUST BURNED A MONTH OF YOUR PENSION
IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BOOST YOUR SAVINGS—
HOW AM I SUP-POSED TO DO ANY OF THAT?!
BUT IT'S STILL HARD TO EARN INTEREST, AND STOCKS AND BONDS ARE UNSTABLE, AND THERE'S A BIG RISK WITH HOLDING FOREIGN CURRENCY.
IF YOU'RE LIVING WITH YOUR PARENTS, THEN YOU SHOULD SAVE UP A LOT ENOUGH FOR THE DOWN PAYMENT ON A CONDO.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S RIGHT!
WAH!
CR
パチンコ -Big-
PLAY PACHINKO!

Chapter 75

The Type Of Guy You Like

2003

WOW, EVERYBODY'S GOT DIFFERENT OPINIONS.
I LIKE IT STRAIGHT AND SILKY.
NO, GUYS SHOULD HAVE SHORT HAIR
I LIKE GUYS WITH LONG HAIR.
MRMR
I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT HIS HAIR
YOMOYAMA'S TALKING ABOUT WHAT GUY SHE LIKES!
I LIKE GUYS WITH BIG FOREHEADS. THEY LOOK SMART!
WHAT'S WITH YAMANOUE KUMONOSUKE?
IS HE WEIRD?
YADA YADA YADA
CHATTER
YADA YADA

GUYS WHO LOOK GOOD IN T-SHIRTS?
CHATTER
CHATTER
I LIKE GUYS WHO LOOK GOOD IN T-SHIRTS OVER GUYS WITH BIG MUSCLES
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YOMOYAMA?
MRMR
MRMR
I LIKE GUYS WHO LOOK LIKE KANE KOSUGI.
LATELY I'VE BEEN INTO GUYS WITH MUSCLES
MRMR
MRMR
THAT'S RIGHT, SOMEBODY WHO CAN MAKE YOU LAUGH!
CHATTER
CHATTER
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS THAT HE BE FUNNY.
UNBUTTON
...
...
GET LOST!
I BROUGHT YOU THOSE COPIES YOU ASKED FOR!
YOMO-♪YAMA!
I JUST DON'T GET WOMEN.
YAMANOUE, YOU'VE GOT A CALL ON LINE ONE.

Chapter 76

A Sixties Pose

2003

THE SHAY?
...WAS THE SHAY!
BUT PROBABLY THE BIGGEST THING IN THE SIXTIES . . .
BUT IT GOT SO POPULAR THAT EVEN GOOZILLA COPIED IT IN A MOVIE
IT WAS ORIGINALLY A GAG IN A COMIC DRAWN BY FUJIO AKATSUKA
WHA ?!
S-HA-AA-Y!
R-RIGHT !!
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH HISTORY NOW TRY IT
HE'S SHAYING REALLY FAST!
WOW, HIS HANDS ARE BLURRY!
LOOK AT A PHOTO OF A KID BACK THEN AND HE'LL PROBABLY BE DOING THE SHAY
SHAAAAAY!
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
YOMOYAMA, KEEP YOUR ARM STRAIGHT!

Chapter 77

Imperial Scion

2003

JAPANESE PEOPLE REALLY LOVE BRANDS.
I LOVE BRANDED STUFF.
HEY, THAT BAG IS NEAT.
AND THE MOST POPULAR BRAND IN JAPAN...
IT'S BRAND-NAME!
...IS THE ROYAL FAMILY!
WHAT? THE ONE WHO LOOKS LIKE A MORON?
AYAKOUJI IN MATERIALS IS A FORMER IMPERIAL, I HEAR.
YOU CAN'T JUST BECOME A MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY.
ANY-THING THE IMPERIAL FAMILY USES
THEY'RE THE MOST EXCLUSIVE CELEBRITIES OF THEM ALL!
CHATTER
MRMR

T-THAT'S RIGHT. HE'S HUMAN JUST LIKE ME.
HE'S HUMAN, JUST LIKE YOU!
TELL HIM OFF!
YOU CAN DO IT!
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
HUH ?!
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO CALL HIM UP AND YELL AT HIM!
WELL, YOUR HIGHNESS, THE BILLS YOU WROTE OUT UNFORTUNATELY CONTAINED SOME ERRORS AND UM...
THERE HE IS!
WHAT'S UP, YOMO-YAMA?
JUST THE FACT THAT YOU USED TO BE PART OF THE IMPERIAL FAMILY...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
AND IT WOULD BE TERRIBLY GRACIOUS OF YOU IF YOU COULD...
I KNOW THAT!
HE'S HUMAN, JUST LIKE YOU!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? TELL HIM OFF!
THAT'S KIND OF SCARY IN ITS OWN WAY.
WE WERE CALLED THE "IMPERIALS"
OH, THAT WAS MY GANG IN HIGH SCHOOL ...

Chapter 78

Knocked Out at the Gym

2003

I NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS BELLY FAT.
SQUISH
I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE GYM IN AGES.
GWUAAHH!!
GULHH
START WITH STRETCHING!
GAAAH
I'D HEARD HE JOINED A GYM, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS THIS ONE!
I REALLY WOULDN'T WANT ANYBODY FROM THE COMPANY TO SEE ME HERE.
I'LL JUST TONE UP MY STOMACH A BIT AND GO HOME!
OH NO! TAMAGOTOJI!

SPIN
SPIN
OH NO! TAMA-GOTOJI!
WAH!
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
SPIN
HEY, YOMO-YAMA.
TURN
WHEW. I GUESS HE DIDN'T SEE ME
QUICK SPIN
SPIN
WELL, UM... YOU KNOW... JUST 'CAUSE
WHY ARE YOU TURNING AWAY FROM ME?

Chapter 79

Former Salaryman's Bar

2003

SURE!
IT'S STILL EARLY. WANT TO HIT UP ONE MORE PLACE?
YEAH, THE FOOD WAS GOOD.
AH, THAT WAS FUN.
WOW, HE QUIT TO FOLLOW HIS DREAM!
Bar
OPEN
THERE'S A BAR RUN BY A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF OURS NEAR HERE
IT'S ALWAYS A BIT DELICATE THOUGH.
I SEE
BUT IF HIS BAR'S DESERTED IT MAKES US BOTH FEEL BAD.
IT'S FRUSTRATING IF HE'S TOO SUCCESSFUL.
DELICATE? REALLY?
YEAH. SINCE WE USED TO WORK WITH HIM..

ALL RIGHT THEN.
OPEN THE DOOR!
HMM.
THERE'S NO WINDOWS OR ANYTHING TO LOOK THROUGH!
SHALL I TAKE A LOOK?
THIS IS THE PLACE HOW'S IT DOING?
YES SIR!
GET READY, I'M OPENING IT!
WHAT? ME?
YOMOYAMA, ARE YOU READY?
IF THERE'S AT LEAST THREE AND LESS THAN TEN CUSTOMERS, WE GO INSIDE!
KLAK
OKAY! IN WE GO!
I SAW THREE PEOPLE!
ONLY MY OLD CO-WORKERS EVER COME HERE!
OH!

Chapter 80

Meditate Harder

2003/2004

DUR PROBLEM IS THAT WE KEEP FOCUSING DN HOW WE'RE LONELY IT'S NICE TO BE ALONE
THEY SAY THAT AN ENLIGHTENED MIND CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING!
DLD AGE AND DEATH COME TD US ALL, EVEN IF WE HAVE A BDYFRIEND.
EVEN IF YDU MEET SOMEONE DN CHRISTMAS, YDU'RE DESTINED TD SEPARATE FRDM THEM.
ALL WHD MEET MUST PART.
...ONG
FROM NOW ON, IT'S BUDDHISM ALL THE WAY!
WE WERE FOOLS TO SEEK SALVATION FROM A FOREIGN RELIGIOUS EVENT!
WOW
I GDT ALL THESE PRESENTS!
I WENT TO A FANCY RESTAURANT WITH MY BOYFRIEND ON CHRISTMAS...
MRMR
HUH?
NDW WE CAN RELAX AND RETURN TD WDRK
DUR MEDITATIDN HAS PAID DFF. DUR HEARTS ARE CALM.
IT DIDN'T HELP AT ALL...
REMEMBER TO MEDITATE! MEDITATE!
ARGH!!

Chapter 81

Monkeys Come Out

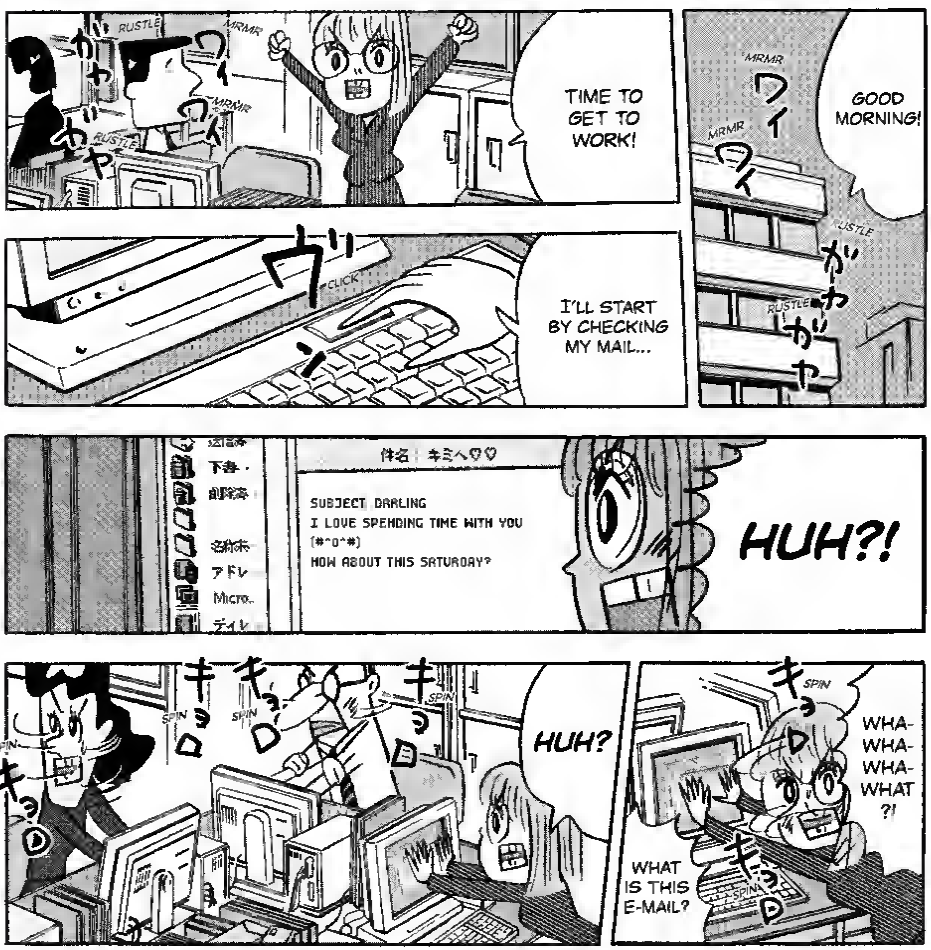
2004

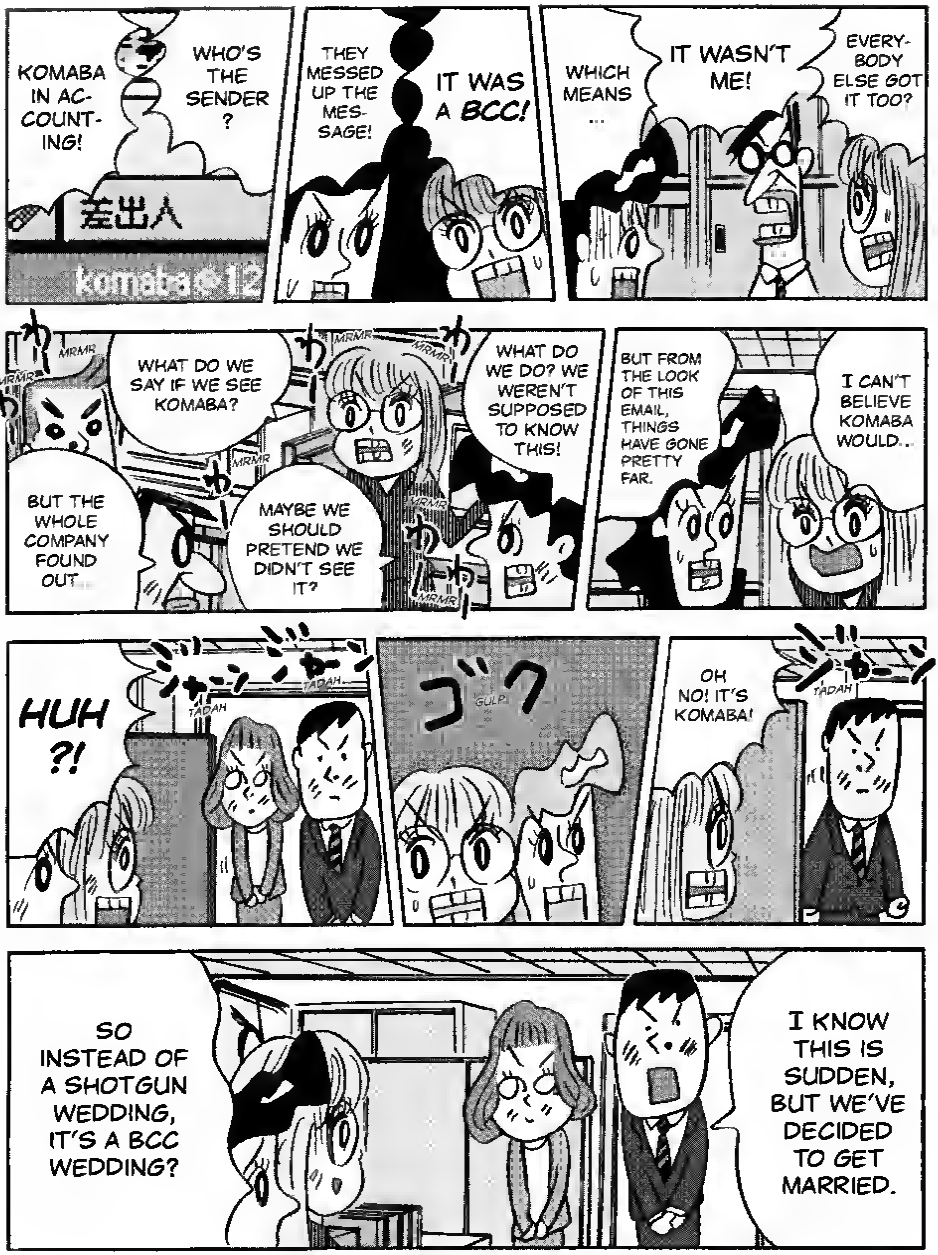
AND WHO WANTS TO BE CALLED A MONKEY ANYWAY?
WELL, AGE TWENTY-FOUR IS WHEN YOU START TO GET CONCERNED ABOUT THAT STUFF
BUT IF YOU KNOW MY ZODIAC YEAR, YOU ALL KNOW HOW OLD I AM.
PANIC
COME ON... THAT'S NOT SEXUAL HARASSMENT...
HUH? THEN YOU'RE THIRTY-SIX?
WOW
I'LL COME OUT OF THE CLOSET--I'M A MONKEY TOO!
HUH? MADAM TAMA-CHI?
YOU'VE GOT IT EASY!
ME TOO! I'M SIXTY!
I'M A MONKEY! I'M THIRTY-SIX!
Y-YES MA'AM I UNDER-STAND
SHAKE
YOU'RE TWO CYCLES YOUNGER THAN ME, SO YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO WORRY ABOUT IT!
YOU DON'T LOOK IT!
I'M FORTY-EIGHT
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
OH, I'M A MONKEY! THAT'S RIGHT! ANDY!
NOW LET'S ALL SING THE SONG OF THE YEAR OF THE MONKEY!

Chapter 82

Company Romance In Progress

2004




KOMABA IN ACCOUNTING!
WHO'S THE SENDER?
差出人
komaba 12
THEY MESSED UP THE MESSAGE!
IT WAS A BCC!
WHICH MEANS ...
IT WASN'T ME!
EVERYBODY ELSE GOT IT TOO?
MRMR
WHAT DO WE SAY IF WE SEE KOMABA?
BUT THE WHOLE COMPANY FOUND OUT...
MAYBE WE SHOULD PRETEND WE DIDN'T SEE IT?
WHAT DO WE DO? WE WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW THIS!
BUT FROM THE LOOK OF THIS EMAIL, THINGS HAVE GONE PRETTY FAR.
I CAN'T BELIEVE KOMABA WOULD..
HUH?!
TADAH
ゴク
GULP
OH NO! IT'S KOMABA!
SO INSTEAD OF A SHOTGUN WEDDING, IT'S A BCC WEDDING?
I KNOW THIS IS SUDDEN, BUT WE'VE DECIDED TO GET MARRIED.

Chapter 83

Static Electricity Season

2004

RAAH!!
SPARK
SOME-ONE, RELEASE MY ELEC-TRICITY!
IT'S SHIMERI BETAO, THE OILIEST MAN IN THE COMPANY!
STEP ASIDE. I'LL HANDLE THIS.
SHEW
STARE
THERE'S SOME KIND OF ROMANCE BETWEEN THE OIL AND THE STATIC ELEC-TRICITY.
I'VE REALIZED THAT MY OILINESS WAS ALL FOR YOUR SAKE...
I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU THIS TIME OF YEAR.

Chapter 84

The Carnivores

2004

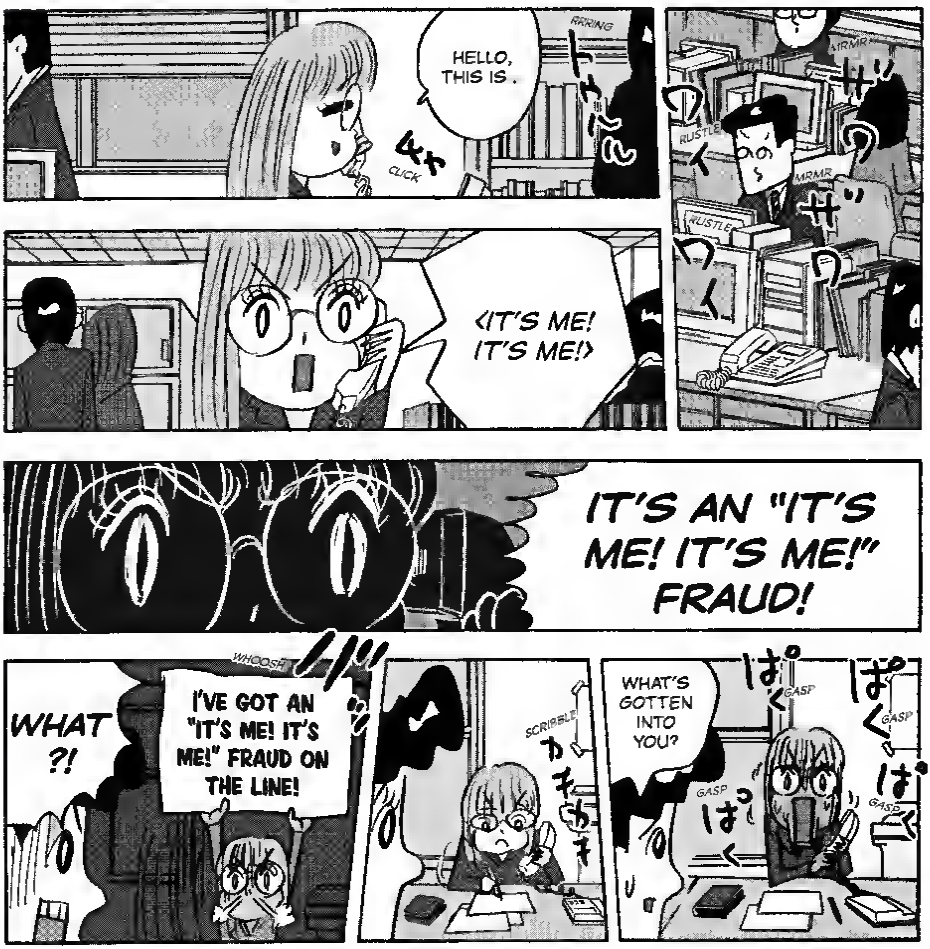
IT'S HARD TO GET MEAT, RIGHT?
LATELY WITH ALL THE BSE AND INFLUENZA GOING AROUND.
DING DONG
IT'LL BE HARD FOR THE PEOPLE WHO LIKE MEAT.
WE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO EAT MEAT ANYMORE!
HUH?!
MEAT!
THEY'RE HEALTHY!
EAT VEGETABLES!
GAAH
WHAT DO I DO IF I CAN'T EAT MEAT ANY-MORE?
I WANT MEAT!
IT'S SHISHIO, THE CARNIVORE OF THE PLANNING DIVISION!

SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
THE SMELL OF COOKING MEAT...THE FAT DRIPPING OFF OF IT...
BUT SOMETIMES YOU JUST WANT TO EAT MEAT!
SURE, THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH VEGGIES
CARNIVORES ARE WAKING UP ALL OVER THE DEPARTMENT!
MEAT!
MEAT!
ROAR
EVEN ONE OF OUR PRETTY SECRETARIES IS TURNING INTO A CARNIVORE!
MEAT!
ROAR
THE WAY THE HOT JUICES SPREAD OUT THROUGH YOUR MOUTH
IT'S THE SPEAKER OF MEAT!
LET US SPEAK OF THE DELICIOUSNESS OF MEAT!
WE WANT TO EAT MEAT TOO, RIGHT?
BUT YOU KNOW, SOMETIMES...
SORRY, SIR.
PLEASE DON'T DO THAT DURING WORKING HOURS.
GIVE ME MEAT!
MEAT!
ROAR
I WANT MEAT!

Chapter 85

Phone Fraud

2004



I'VE GOTTA SEE THIS!
WOW, A REAL "IT'S ME! IT'S ME!" FRAUD!
WHAT? WOW!
I ALWAYS WANTED TO SEE A REAL ONE!
YOMO-YAMA'S GOT AN "IT'S ME! IT'S ME!" FRAUD ON THE LINE!
MAN, I HOPE I GET ONE TOO!
IS IT REALLY AN "IT'S ME! IT'S ME!" FRAUD?
EVERY-BODY, GET OVER HERE!
THIS IS HUGE!
HUH?
<THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT YOMO-YAMA?>
IS THAT YOU, SONNY-BOY? THIS IS YOUR GRANNY..
FIND OUT WHO IT IS
KEEP THEM ON THE LINE
OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE! ASK WHO IT IS FIRST!
WHA ?!
<I NEED YOU TO LOOK AT SOME BUSI-NESS CARDS IN MY DESK..>
MRMR
DASH
RUSTLE
WOW

Chapter 86

The Secret in the Phone

2004

IF I RING IT WE MIGHT FIND IT.
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT OUTSIDE!
BOOP
BEEP
WAH! YOMOYAMA!
WANT ME TO DIAL IT FOR YOU?
IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE AROUND HERE...
GOT IT!
GRAB
RAH!
CRASH
THERE IT IS!
RRRING!
WHEW.
FALL
SMACK
ROLL
MY WALLPAPER'S A PICTURE OF YOMOYAMA...
22:21

Chapter 87

Foreign Client

2004

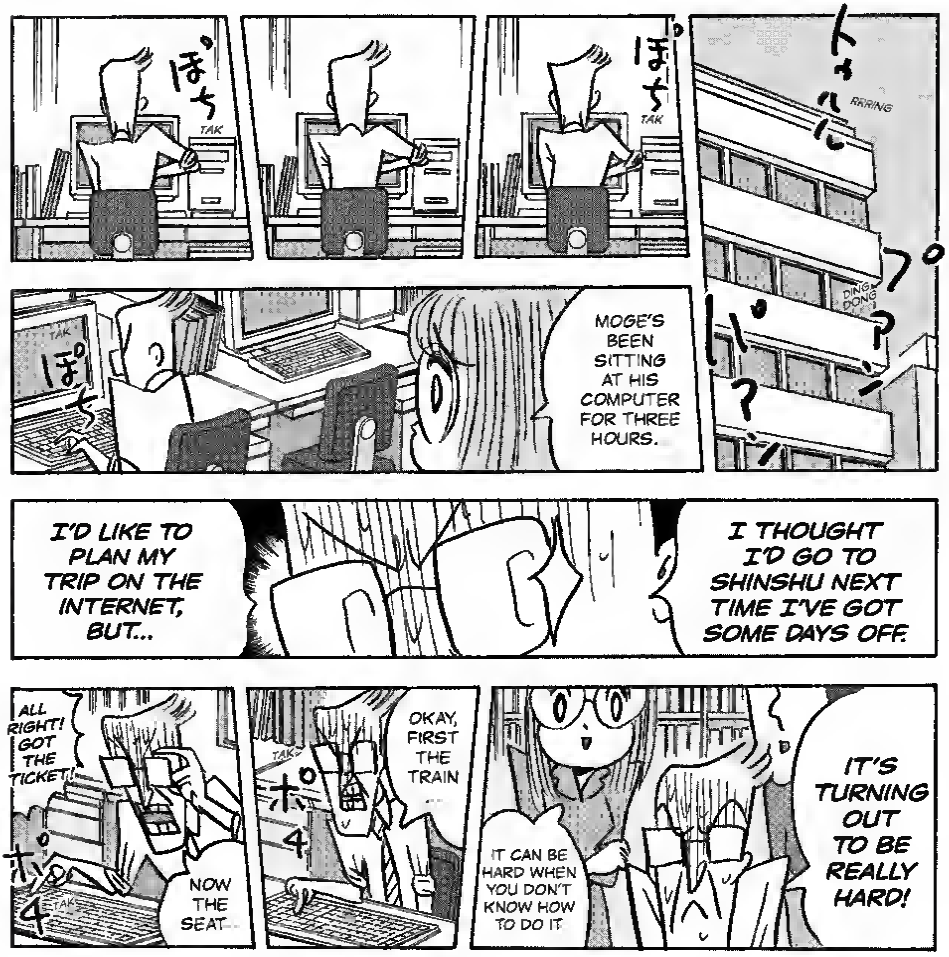
WAIT, AREN'T THEY A FOREIGN COMPANY?
YOMOYAMA, YOU'RE IN CHARGE OF MORRIS AND MARTIN, INC.
OKAY, I'LL ANNOUNCE YOUR NEW CLIENTS.
THE CONTACT THERE IS A FOREIGNER TOO!
MAKE SURE YOU GO INTRODUCE YOURSELVES.
HOW DO I SAY "NICE TO MEET YOU?"
SMILE
HERE HE IS NOW!
I'VE NEVER SPOKEN TO A FOREIGNER BEFORE

... ...
THIS ISN'T WORKING. I'LL USE GESTURES.
!?
<YOU NICE-TAME !>
... ...
<I'M NICE-TA!>
<HAV A GUD REAM>!
<GUBYE!>
<I AM RETURN!>
!?
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
... ...
<NICETA! NICETA! >
<NICETA! NICETA! >
HUH?!
I CAN SPEAK JAPANESE.
PLEASE, WAIT.
IS SHE REALLY JAPANESE?
THINKING TOO HARD ABOUT HER JAPANESE.
I HAST COME TO THIS PLACE TO BE THY NEW REPRESENTATIVE FROM YE OLDE...

Chapter 88

Internet Reservations

2004


ぽち
TAK
RRRING
DING DONG
MOGE'S BEEN SITTING AT HIS COMPUTER FOR THREE HOURS.
I'D LIKE TO PLAN MY TRIP ON THE INTERNET, BUT...
I THOUGHT I'D GO TO SHINSHU NEXT TIME I'VE GOT SOME DAYS OFF.
ALL RIGHT! GOT THE TICKET!
NOW THE SEAT...
OKAY, FIRST THE TRAIN...
IT CAN BE HARD WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO IT
IT'S TURNING OUT TO BE REALLY HARD!

I'LL HAVE TO ENTER MY PERSONAL INFORMATION.
IN ORDER TO HANDLE THE PAYMENT..
KA-BAH
NOW IT GETS HARD!
WHEW
:GASP:
:GASP:
IT WON'T KILL ME...
AND NONE OF THIS INFORMATION IS WORTH ANYTHING
I'VE GOTTA DO IT SOMEDAY...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU CAN DO IT!
IT'S OKAY!
OH NO!
WHAT IF MY PERSONAL INFORMATION GETS STOLEN ?!
YOU GOT A TRIP TO KYUSHU, NOT SHINSHU.
I DID IT!
HOORAY!
TAK
ぽちっ
HE DOESN'T HAVE THE ENERGY LEFT TO DO IT AGAIN.
GA HA HA HA!
KYUSHU IT IS THEN!

Chapter 89

Turning Into an Old Man

2004

プシュー
WOOSH
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
I'M HUNGRY
AND I DIDN'T EAT MUCH LAST NIGHT EITHER!
I OVER-SLEPT AND DIDN'T GET TO EAT BREAKFAST.
MRMR
OH NO! I'VE GOT A MEETING DURING LUNCH AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO EAT!
FAST-FOOD NOODLES... ≥GULP≤
HUH ?!
...MAKES ME EVEN HUN-GRIER!
AND JUST THINKING ABOUT THAT...

GROWL
I FEEL LIKE I'LL LOSE SOMETHING IMPORTANT AS A WOMAN.
IF I GO IN THERE WITH THE OTHER OLD MEN AND ORDER NOODLES ...
A WOMAN CAN'T EAT FAST FOOD NOODLES!
NO! ONLY OLD MEN EAT FAST FOOD NOODLES !!
... ...
YOUR NOODLES ARE ABOUT TO CAUSE A WOMAN TO FALL!
HUH?
IF THIS IS THE END OF MY WOMANHOOD, THEN SO BE IT!
I CAN'T STOP MYSELF!
THE LINE STARTS OUTSIDE
GIMME A DOUBLE ORDER!
YOMOYAMA'S CHANGED SOMEHOW
SHH
SHH
CHATTER
CHATTER
HA HA HA
CHATTER
CHATTER
AMRMR
MAN, KIDS THESE DAYS!

Chapter 90

Let's All Brush Our Teeth

2004

WE'D BETTER HURRY OR THE BATHROOM'S GONNA GET CROWDED!
THAT LUNCH MEETING WENT ON FOREVER...
OH NO! LUNCH IS ALMOST OVER!
THE WOMEN ALL BRUSH THEIR TEETH DURING LUNCH BREAK
WHAT'S THAT?
DASH
BRUSH
DA

WAH! THE ELECTRIC TOOTH-BRUSHERS ARE VIBRATING THEIR BRUSHES TO GET US TO HURRY!
VRRR
RRR
SO IT'S REALLY CROWDED!
BRUSH
EVERYBODY'S ALL BRUSHING THEIR TEETH AT ONCE TODAY.
OUT OF THE WAY!
DA
DING DONG
UH OH, LUNCH BREAK IS OVER!
THE FLOSSERS ARE PLUCKING THEIR STRINGS AT US TO GET US TO HURRY!
PLUCK
HOW IS SHE GOING TO DRY HER HAIR?
WHUP
THERE'S NO DRYER!
SPLASH
I DRANK TOO MUCH LAST NIGHT, AND I DIDN'T GET TO TAKE A SHOWER THIS MORNING! MY HAIR'S A MESS!
SHE STARTED WASHING HER HAIR!
SCRUB
IT'S A MONSTER!
RWAR!!

Chapter 91

Quarterly Banquet

2004

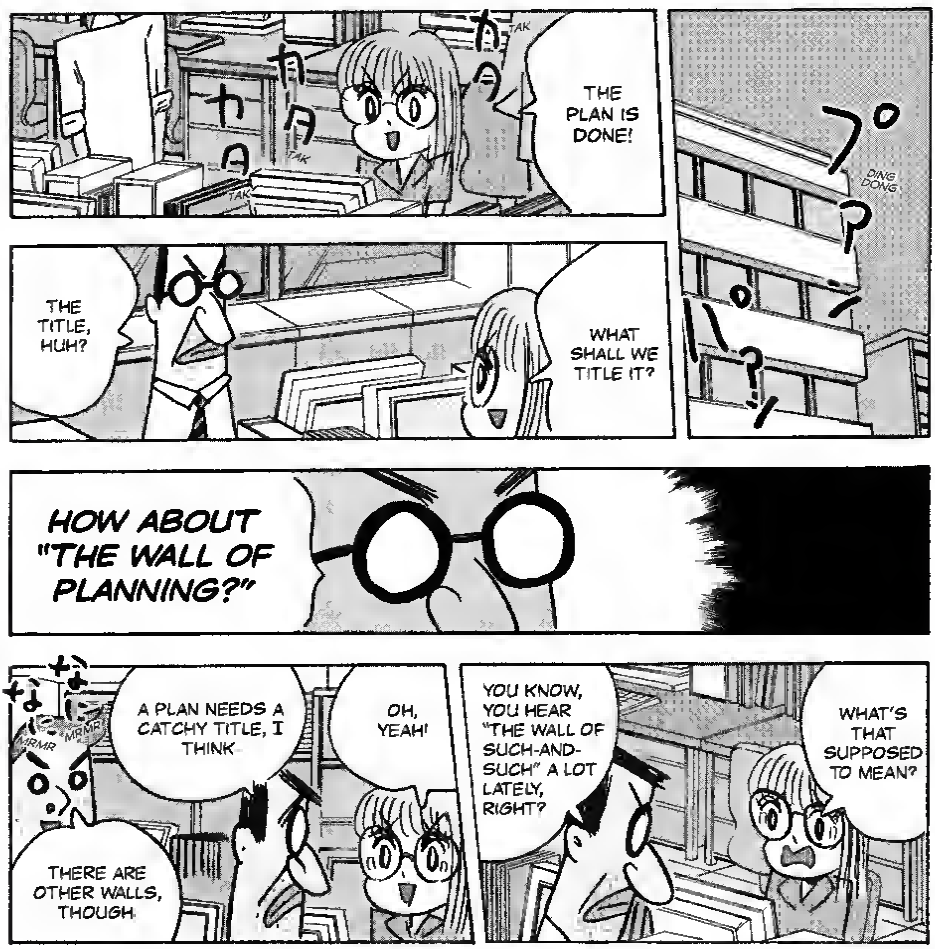
WHAT WE'LL BE DOING FOR OUR QUARTERLY BANQUET.
AND THE NEXT ITEM ON THE AGENDA
HMM...
HMMM...
WE COULD WATCH A SHOW WHILE WE ATE OR SOMETHING
WOULDN'T A BEER GARDEN BE NICE THIS TIME OF YEAR?
KIMONO !!
I THINK WE COULD ALL GO AND WEAR OUR KIMONO...
UM... WELL, I...

TOTALLY IGNORED
MRMR
WHY DON'T WE WEAR SWIMSUITS TO THE POOL THEN?
I'VE GOT LOTS OF LITTLE JAPANESE TRINKETS I CAN BRING TOO.
I'M ALL FOR KIMONOS!
I BOUGHT A KIMONO AND I HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO WEAR IT.
WE DON'T REALLY WEAR KIMONO.
BUT WE GUYS, YOU KNOW..
YAY
SO OUR BANQUET'S THEME WILL BE "KIMONO.
IT'S KIND OF EMBARRASSING
THIS IS A NICE CHANGE, ISN'T IT?
HE HE HE
おほほほ
HA HA HA HA
IT'S FUN THOUGH!
JAPANESE, HUH?
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A KIMONO. JUST SOMETHING JAPANESE
SO AM I!
I AM A SAMURAI!
THE GUYS ARE ENJOYING THEMSELVES TOO.

Chapter 32

Eenie, Meenie, Meinie, Moe

2004



I FIGURED SOMEBODY WOULD DO THAT.
キカ
PLAN
"CRY PLAN AT THE HEART OF THE OFFICE!"
"THE WALL OF YOUR BOSS"
"THE WALL OF BUDGETING."
"THE WALL OF YOUR TALENTS."
MRMR
BUT THERE MIGHT BE SOME PERVERTS ON THE COMPANY BOARD.
NOTHING R-RATED.
"THE PLAN OF EROS!"
"THE BLACK PLAN--WHAT THE MAID SAW!"
"THE PLAN MURDER INCIDENT."
LOTS OF PEOPLE LIKE MYSTERIES, THOUGH.
I KNOW JUST THE THING FOR A BROADER AUDIENCE!
I WANT TO APPEAL TO A BROADER AUDIENCE.
WE NEED MORE THAN JUST PERVERTS, I THINK
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
"THE PLAN THAT WAS A BIG HIT, PART 2."

Chapter 93

The "Loser-Dog" Girls

2004

はーい
YES?
HEY YOMO-YAMA, GOMA-YASHIKI.
WHAT IS IT?
YOU'VE BEEN CALLED "LOSER-DOGS."
I'M TOLD THAT LATELY...
A "LOSER DOG" IS A TERM FOR SOMEBODY WHO WORKS HARD BUT IS STILL UNMARRIED WITH NO KIDS EVEN IN HER THIRTIES... I GUESS
WELL, I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU.
WHAT IS THE REASON FOR THIS?

CHIEF!
ROAR!
I REFUSE TO ALLOW MY WORKERS TO BE CALLED "LOSER DOGS!"
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SO YOU'RE MORE LIKE A "WINNER BOAR" THAN A "LOSER DOG"?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SPENDING YOUR WHOLE LIFE ALONE ?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH MAKING COPIES AND SERVING TEA EVERY DAY?!
YEAH
YOU SHOULD HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELVES!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL BETTER EITHER...
MRMR
WE'RE LOSER DOGS TOO!
CHEER UP!
I ACTUALLY FEEL WORSE...
SOMEHOW THAT DOESN'T MAKE ME FEEL ANY BETTER...
THEY'VE STARTED HOWLING!
HOOOWL

Chapter 94

Summer Mission

2004

IT'S BEEN HOT THIS SUMMER
IS TO DISCUSS OUR PROFIT EXPECTATIONS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE PERIOD.
OUR TASK FOR OUR MEETING TODAY.
IN THAT RESPECT, THE WOMEN ARE LUCKY.
HA HA HA
あはは
I FEEL LIKE WEARING A BLOCK OF ICE INSTEAD OF A NECKTIE.
THEY GET TO WEAR SLEEVELESS SHIRTS IN THE OFFICE!
THEY GET TO WEAR SANDALS!
NOT ONLY THAT...
STOP THAT RIGHT NOW! MANUFACTURING DIVISION CHIEF! CONSTRUCTION DIVISION CHIEF!
STRIP
YES, THOSE DO LOOK COOL!
MGMG
YES, THOSE DO LOOK COOL!
STRIP
MGMG

THAT IS THE BRAS-SIERE!
BUT THERE'S ONE THING THAT MAKES ME GLAD I'M NOT A WOMAN IN SUMMER.
ACCOUNTING CHIEF?
...
...
I'M SURE I'D FEEL BETTER IN THOSE.
THOSE LOOK WONDERFUL! VERY COOL!
MRMR
HAS ANYONE EVER SEEN ONE OF THESE FORM-FITTING WHATSITS?
BUT THAT NU-WHAT SITS SEEMS UNLIKELY TO ABSORB ANY SWEAT.
OH, YES THOSE! THOSE LOOK VERY COOL!
THERE'S SUPPOSEDLY A NU-SOMETHING OR OTHER THAT FORM-FITS EXACTLY.
WAIT A SECOND
I WOULD HATE TO WEAR ONE IN SUMMER
INDEED! THOSE LOOK VERY HOT!
HUH?
PLANNING CHIEF!
WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE IMMEDIATELY.
HOW DO THESE FORM-FITTING NU-WHATSITS FEEL IN SUMMERTIME?!
SILENCE
...
...
I NEED YOU TO INVESTIGATE SOMETHING FOR ME IMMEDIATELY

Chapter 95

Too hot!

2004

CHILL
WHEW.. I'M SAVED ...
DASH
DASH
AIR CONDITIONER! WHERE'S THE AIR CONDITIONER?!
AIR CONDITIONER... AIR-CONDITIONER..
OH, TAMAGOTOJI! YOU WERE VISITING CLIENTS TODAY, WEREN'T YOU?
I'M GONNA DIE...
PANT
CHILL
PANT
PANT
PANT
AIR-CONDITIONER.. AIR-CONDITIONER
GWAH!
MOGE TOO?
NOW THEN, BY THE WAY..
IT MUST BE HARD TO HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE ON A DAY LIKE THIS
CHILL
SO HOT !!
ARGH!
HOW DOES GOLF MAKE IT DIFFERENT ?!
I HOPE THE WEATHER'S NICE!
I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR GOLF OUTING TOMORROW

Chapter 96

Former Olympic Candidate

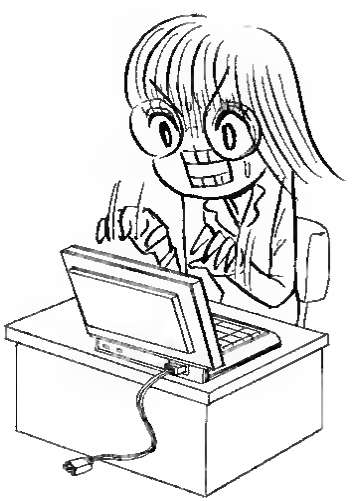
2004

WHAT?! WE HAVE AN *OLYMPIC ATHLETE* AT OUR COMPANY ?!
HAYATA IN SALES WAS A FORMER OLYMPIC ATHLETE FOR TRACK.
THE OLYMPICS WERE FUN, WEREN'T THEY?
TOTALLY!
HEY, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
WOW! HE'S FAST!
DASH
ALL RIGHT THEN, MADAM
HAVE A RACE WITH ME!
I DO HAVE A REQUEST, ACTUALLY.
YOU REALLY ARE FAST!
WOW! A REAL OLYMPIC ATHLETE!
CAN I DO SOMETHING FOR YOU, LADIES ?

AHA.
BUT I'M SO HAPPY I GOT TO RACE WITH YOU!
YOU REALLY ARE FAST!
COOL
DASH
DASH
RUN OVER THERE, MAKE COPIES AND COME BACK!
NOW LET'S TRY SOME THING MORE COMPLI-CATED!
HOORAY
I WON!
WHEE
KA-CHINK
STUTTER STUTTER
GO GO
GO
KA-CHINK
I CAN'T BELIEVE I TASTED DEFEAT AGAIN OVER SOMETHING SO STUPID
IF COPYING WAS AN EVENT, YOU MIGHT'VE WON A GOLD MEDAL!
I WON! I BEAT AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE!

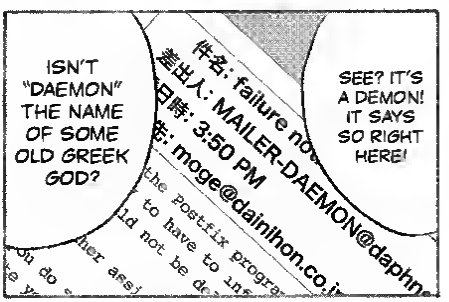
Oshigoto

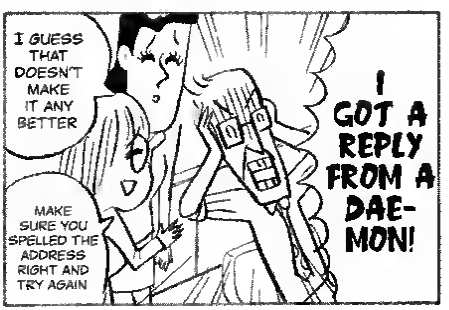
Cast of characters



AN-
OTHER
DEMON!
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
MUMBLE

WHAT? A
DEMON?
I SENT
AN EMAIL
AND I
GOT A
REPLY
FROM A
DEMON!
WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?


ISN'T
"DAEMON"
THE NAME
OF SOME
OLD GREEK
GOD?
SEE? IT'S
A DEMON!
IT SAYS
SO RIGHT
HERE!


I GUESS
THAT
DOESN'T
MAKE
IT ANY
BETTER
I
GOT A
REPLY
FROM A
DAE-
MON!
MAKE
SURE YOU
SPELLED THE
ADDRESS
RIGHT AND
TRY AGAIN

Chapter 97

Sickness Starts in the Mind

2004

YEAH, ALL THE TIME.
THE TV'S BEEN TALKING ABOUT A LOT OF HEALTH STUFF LATELY.
DING DONG
TOTALLY!
ANYBODY WOULD THINK THEY WERE SICK AFTER WATCHING ONE OF THOSE SHOWS
SOB! I'M SO SICK!
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT TOO AT FIRST!
THAT HAPPENS TO EVERYBODY!
I'VE BEEN HAVING CHEST PAINS...
LATELY I'VE BEEN TIRED ALL THE TIME, AND NOT ONLY THAT
YUP, JUST LIKE I WAS SAYING.

...AND "DISEASES THAT MIGHT KILL YOU!"
AND THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT THESE DISEASES ON "THINGS YOU'RE SICK WITH" AND "RARE ILLNESSES YOU MIGHT HAVE"...
BUT THEN I STARTED WATCHING THESE HEALTH PROGRAMS ...
CALM DOWN A SECOND!
I WANT YOU TO REMEMBER ME AS A SLIGHTLY THOUGHTLESS BUT LOVABLE OLD MAN!
SOB
SOB
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME...
BUT THEY WRITE THOSE TV PROGRAMS TO MAKE YOU THINK THAT!
AND I HAD THE EXACT SAME SYMPTOMS!
IT'S ALWAYS AT THE VERY END OF THE SHOW, AFTER ALL THE COMMERCIALS ...
SURE, THEY TELL YOU HOW TO STAY HEALTHY ON THE SHOWS, BUT...
YEAH! THOSE PROGRAMS ALWAYS HAVE THAT
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU CAN EAT OR SOME MEDICINE YOU CAN TAKE TO CURE IT?
IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT IT THEN STAY UP!
SOB
AND I ALWAYS FALL ASLEEP BEFORE I SEE THEM!

Chapter 98

Hip Hop Video

2004

WHAT'S THAT?
SHAKE
HEY, YOU EVER SEEN THIS BEFORE?
OH, I'VE SEEN THAT BEFORE. THEY REALLY SHAKE THEM, DON'T THEY!
I SAW A LADY SHAKING HER HIPS LIKE THIS IN A HIP-HOP VIDEO!
HARDER. YOU HAVE TO SHAKE THEM HARDER.
LIKE THIS?
WHAT'S UP?
DASH
LISTEN TO THIS, EVERY-BODY!

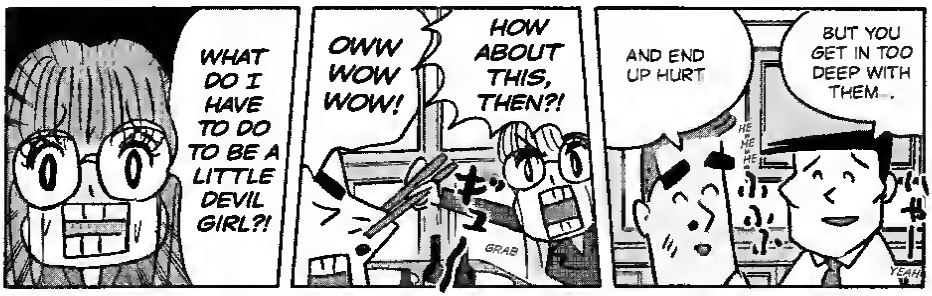
...DOING THIS?
THE GIRLS ARE ALL IN THE BREAK ROOM...
...
...
THE GIRLS ARE ALL IN THE BREAK ROOM, GOING...
SHAKE
LIKE THIS?!
ME TOO! ME TOO!
HEY, YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
SEE, LIKE THIS
ISN'T THAT WHAT THEY DO IN HIP-HOP VIDEOS?
WHAT'S THAT? THE HIPS ARE HOP-PING?
AAAAH!!
AH, THAT WAS FUN.
POP
STRAIN
MOAN
ARGH
UGH
WHA... WHAT HAP-PENED HERE?

Chapter 99

Little Devil Girl

2004

THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ! OLÉ!
LIKE THEY'RE TOTALLY LEADING YOU AROUND BY THE NOSE
LIKE WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GONNA DO...
BUT ISN'T THAT DANGEROUS FEELING KIND OF NICE?
LITTLE OR NOT, A DEVIL IS A DEVIL! YOU'LL END UP MISERABLE!


WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO BE A LITTLE DEVIL GIRL?!
OWW WOW WOW!
HOW ABOUT THIS, THEN?!
GRAB
AND END UP HURT
BUT YOU GET IN TOO DEEP WITH THEM...
HE HE HE
YEAH

WHAT KIND OF WOMEN DO YOU LIKE?
OH, CHIEF!
SO YOU GUYS ARE OUT DRINKING HERE?
I HOPE ONE OF THOSE LITTLE DEVIL GIRLS RUINS ALL OF YOU!
NEVER GONNA HAPPEN.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU, YOMOYAMA TOTALLY IMPOSSIBLE
HA HA
HA HA

I HATE MEN!
COUGARS.

Chapter 100

The Shochu Boom

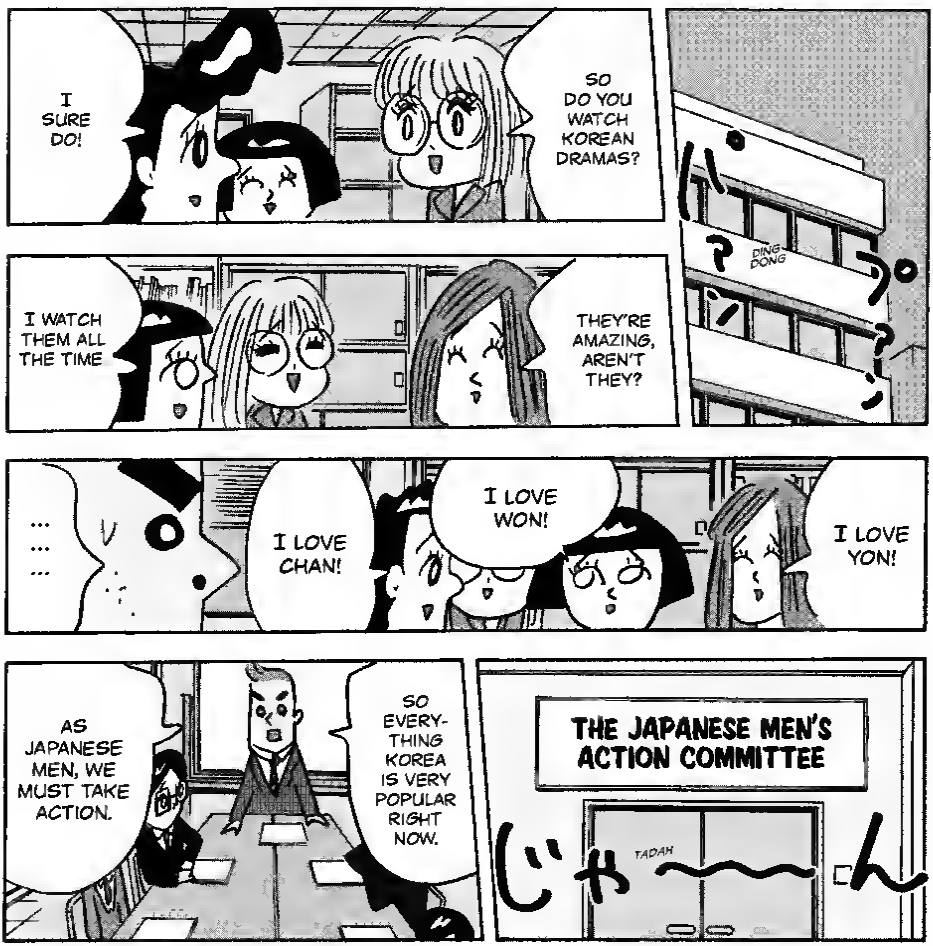
2004

BUT I BET THEY DON'T HAVE...
THERE REALLY ARE ALL KINDS OF NAMES, THOUGH.
HEY!
YOU DON'T THINK "SNOT-NOSE" WOULD BE BETTER?
I THINK YOMOYAMA SHOULD HAVE SOME "DEMON KING."
GLUG
I THINK THE NAME'S MORE LITERARY...
WE'RE GONNA BE SINGLE FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS!
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE SINGLE!
CRAP!
WE DO.
WHAT ABOUT "ANGEL'S SEDUCTION?"
THEN... THEN...
WE DO.
"THE POPULAR PARISIENNE!"
I'M KINDA HAPPY... AND THEN KINDA SAD.
THAT WE DON'T HAVE
THEN HOW ABOUT "SUPER-POPULAR AND PRETTY YOMOYAMA"?!
DEMON, HUH?
SNORE
THE LAST ONE SHE DRANK WAS "DEMON-KILLER," WASN'T IT?

Chapter 101

I Love Korean Stars!

2004



おーっ
YEAH!
WE SHOULD SHORTEN OUR NAMES SO THEY SOUND KOREAN!
FIRST...
THAT'S THE PROBLEM
BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO, EXACTLY?
TAN! TAN!
MY NAME IS TANTO, SO I'LL BE...
OKAY, SO I'M TON
TON! TON!
I'M TAMA-GOTOSHI, SO I'LL BE...
NO, NOT LIKE THIS... SOMETHING THAT FEELS MORE JAPANESE!
...
...
...
MO! MO!
I'M...
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
MAKE SOME SAMURAI COPIES FIRST.
SO I'M OFF TO MY SAMURAI MEETING

Chapter 102

Days You Don't Want Earthquakes

2004

WHAT ?!
STAGGER
WHAT WAS THAT? AN EARTH-QUAKE?
DING DONG
JEEZ, DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT!
I GUESS NOT. I JUST GOT DIZZY FOR A SECOND.
IT'S SCARY TO THINK ABOUT.
BUT I'M SURE WE'RE GONNA GET AN EARTH-QUAKE SOMEDAY, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT! SOMETIMES WE GO PLACES THAT ARE DANGEROUS
MUMBLE MUMBLE
MRMR
BUT WE'RE NOT ALWAYS IN THIS BUILDING ...
THIS IS A NEW BUILDING. I THINK WE'LL BE FINE.

MAKING A LIST OF DAYS WE DON'T WANT EARTH-QUAKES.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SKRI
カキ
カキ
SKRI
LET'S SEE ON THE 5TH AND 6TH I'VE GOT A BUSINESS TRIP, SO THAT'S DANGER-OUS
WE SHOULD MAKE A LIST OF ALL OF THOSE TIMES.
IF WE START INCLUDING THAT STUFF WE'LL NEVER FINISH.
I WOULDN'T WANT ANY ON MY BIRTHDAY.
I NEED THERE TO NOT BE ANY ON THE MORNING OF THE 3RD.
I DON'T WANT ANY WHEN I'M ON MY WAY TO WORK.
I CAN'T HAVE ANY ON THE AFTERNOON OF THE 7TH.
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
I DON'T THINK I CAN REALLY DO MUCH ABOUT THAT...
CHIEF, WE'VE DRAWN UP A LIST OF DAYS WE DON'T WANT ANY EARTH-QUAKES CAN YOU APPROVE IT FOR US?
IT'S DONE!
OH BOY...
THEN LET'S HAVE GOD TAKE A LOOK AT IT.

Chapter 103

Boots for a Mixer

2004

YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN
STAGGER
STAGGER
MY LEGS HURT! I CAN'T WALK! HELP ME!
IT'S A MIRA-CLE!
A MIRA-CLE!
I DID IT!
ZZZIP
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO JOIN US?
WHAT'S WRONG?
CHEERS
NO !!
THESE ARE RUINED. GIVE IT UP.
SPLIT
THE ZIPPER BROKE AND I CAN'T GET THEM OFF!
MY BOOTS!
EBISU? OH WOW, I GO TO EBISU TOO!
HMM... SO WHERE DO YOU GO TO DRINK?

Chapter 104

Turmeric for Drinkers

2004

THE PRICES ARE CHEAP, AND LOOK AT THE SPREAD!
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT FISH!
WOW THAT LOOKS DELICIOUS!
EVERYBODY SAID THEY WANTED TO EAT SOME GOOD JAPANESE FOOD, SO I SPENT A LOT OF TIME TRACKING THIS PLACE DOWN.
AWW, THANKS GUYS.
CLAP
NICE WORK, YOMOYAMA! GOOD JOB!
ANYBODY WHO'S PLANNING ON DRINKING A LOT, EAT UP!
TURMERIC PROTECTS THE LIVER!
I'VE GOT TUMERIC!
AND AS AN EXTRA HEALTHY SPECIAL TREAT...

WAAH!!
SURE, COMING RIGHT UP!
HEY, GIVE IT OVER HERE!
IT TURNED INTO CURRY!
OH NO! THE FOOD!
SPLASH
HACHOO!
WELL... I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN THE JAPANESE FOOD TURNED INTO INDIAN FOOD...
HOW WAS THE PARTY LAST NIGHT?

Chapter 105

Learn to use Emoticons!

2005

LAST NIGHT WAS GREAT, WASN'T IT? THE FOOD WAS GOOD AND WE HAD A FUN TIME
BEEP
WAH ?!
IMHO LAST HIGHT WAS AWESOME! ^_^ FOOD WUZ GR8 & IT WAS FUN TTYL (^O^)/
CHIEF KUNI-ZUKURI!
WHAT KIND OF LANGUAGE IS THAT?
BUT OLD JAPANESE IS PRETTY WEIRD TOO.
OLD JAPANESE IS SO BEAUTI-FUL..
"THE COLOR OF THE FLOW-ERS HAS FADED.."
THESE ARE CALLED "EMOTI-CONS."
I CAN'T UNDER-STAND IT AT ALL!

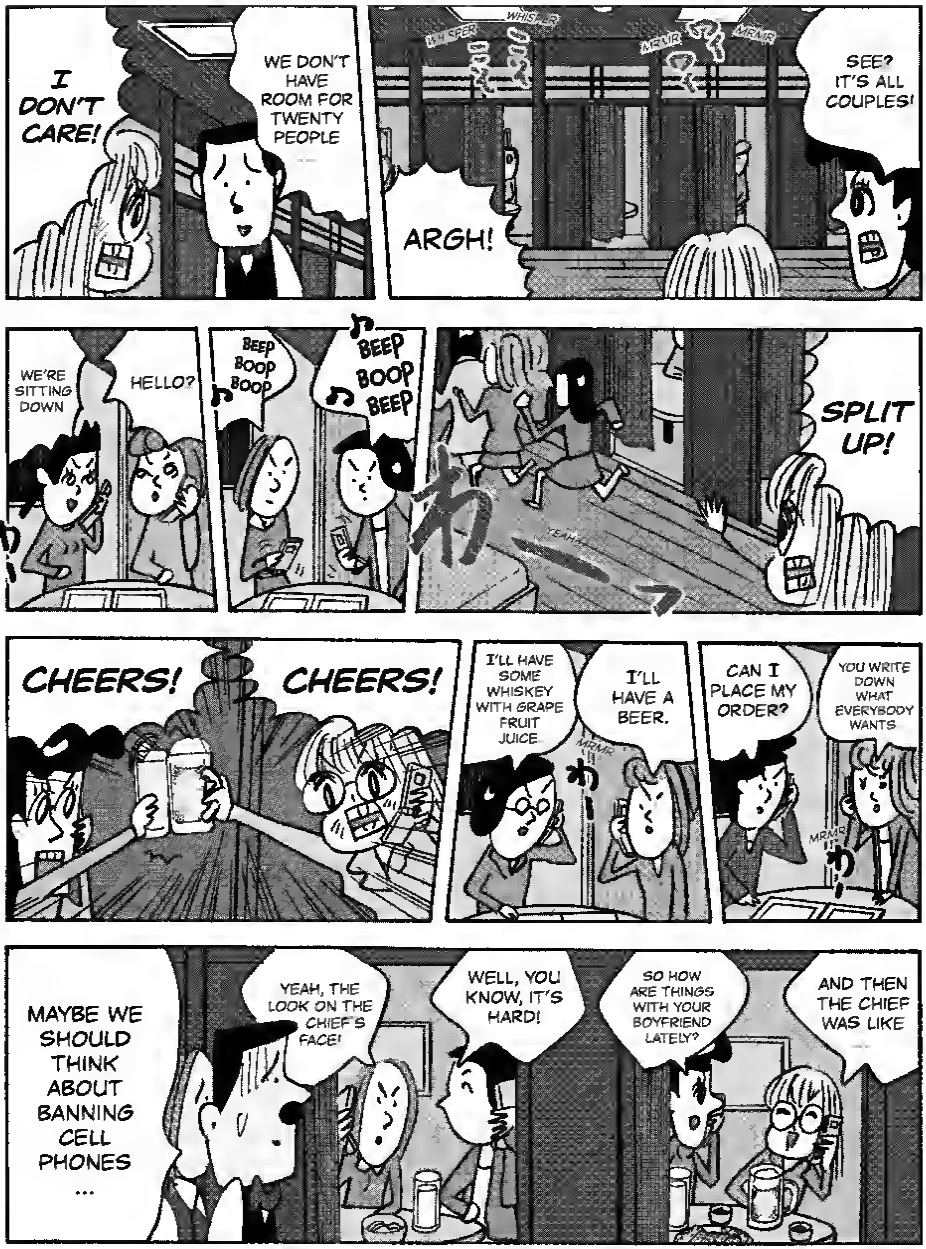
THE ONE FOR "ROOSTER" LOOKS JUST LIKE THE KANJI FOR "WEST"
THAT'S NO EXCUSE.
WELL IT'S GOT TO DO WITH THE CARDINAL DIRECTIONS...
LIKE WHAT'S UP WITH THE WEIRD KANJI THEY USE FOR ZODIAC YEARS?
THAT KANJI DOESN'T MEAN BOAR!
AND WHAT'S UP WITH THE ONE FOR "BOAR"?
MRMR
HALF THE TIME, I FORGET!
I CAN BARELY REMEMBER THE ONE FOR "TIGER."
PEOPLE ARE AGREEING WITH ME!
IT LOOKS JUST LIKE THE KANJI FOR "COW"!
AND WHAT ABOUT THE ONE FOR "HORSE"?
I'M SO SORRY! I SEE THAT EMOTICONS ARE JAPANESE TOO!
THAT'S JUST YOU GUYS BEING BAD AT SPELLING.
I WROTE IT AS "ISLAND."
I USED TO WRITE IT AS "BIRD" INSTEAD OF "ROOSTER"
IT SAYS "FIRST SUNRISE," DOESN'T IT?
SO I DECIDED TO START WRITING IN EMOTICONS.

Chapter 106

Party On No Matter What

2005

YEAH
おーーーっ!!
ON TO THE NEXT PLACE!
I THINK WE'RE ALL UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY.
MRMR
WOW, THERE'S LIKE TWENTY PEOPLE!
WE'LL CHECK THEM ALL!
DO YOU KNOW ANY PLACE THAT'LL FIT THIS MANY?
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO TRY IT!
MRMR
DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE IT'D JUST HAVE SOME SMALL ROOMS, THOUGH?
THE HIDEY-HOLE
HERE!
THE HIDEY-HOLE
CHARGE


I DON'T CARE!
WE DON'T HAVE ROOM FOR TWENTY PEOPLE
WHISPER
WHISPER
MUMUR
MUMUR
SEE? IT'S ALL COUPLES!
ARGH!
WE'RE SITTING DOWN
HELLO?
BEEP BOOP BOOP
BEEP BOOP BEEP
YEAH
SPLIT UP!
CHEERS!
CHEERS!
I'LL HAVE SOME WHISKEY WITH GRAPE FRUIT JUICE
I'LL HAVE A BEER.
MRMR
CAN I PLACE MY ORDER?
YOU WRITE DOWN WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS
MRMR
MAYBE WE SHOULD THINK ABOUT BANNING CELL PHONES ...
YEAH, THE LOOK ON THE CHIEF'S FACE!
WELL, YOU KNOW, IT'S HARD!
SO HOW ARE THINGS WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND LATELY?
AND THEN THE CHIEF WAS LIKE

Chapter 107

The Moisture Saving Season

2005

I'M NOT DRUMMING! I'M PADDING!
SLAP
SLAP
WHAT'S THIS? SOME NEW KIND OF DRUMMING?
THE GUYS WITH NOTHING TO DO HAVE COME OVER TO WATCH
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? THAT SLAPPING NOISE IS DISTRACTING!
TMP
I'M NOT DRUMMING!
SO YOU'RE SAYING DRUMMING IS GOOD FOR THE SKIN, THEN?
REALLY ?
THE DEEPER THE MOISTURE GOES INTO YOUR SKIN
MOISTURE
SKIN
THE HARDER YOU DO IT...
MOISTURE
THE HARDER THE BETTER!
OO YOU REALLY HAVE TO OO IT SO HARD?
SLAP
...
...
IT'S TIME FOR TEA.
LOOK AT THE SECTION NEXT TO OURS
BLAH
MRMR
BLAH
MRMR
WE'RE BETTER THAN MOST!
WOMEN ARE SO WORRIED ABOUT THEIR SKIN WHENEVER WINTER COMES AROUND
THUNK

Chapter 108

Dinner for One

2005

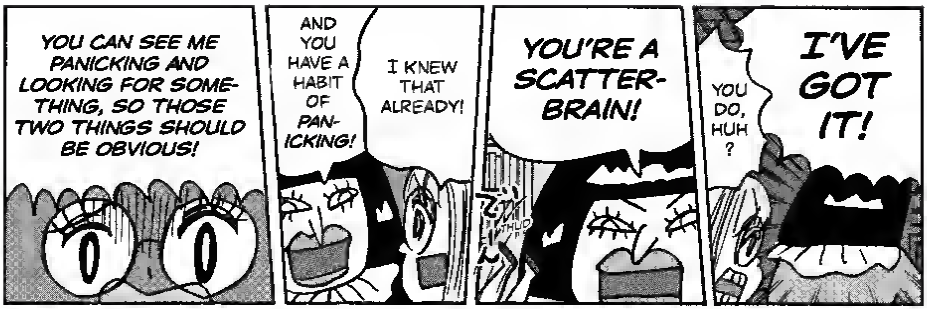
IT MUST BE ONE OF THOSE "DINNER FOR ONE" PLACES I READ ABOUT!
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?!
I'M SO HUNGRY!
SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD MY FOLKS I DIDN'T WANT ANYTHING TO EAT...
DING
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
BUT I'LL TRY EATING ALONE FOR ONCE!
I'M KIND OF NERVOUS
MRMR
MRMR
OH WOW! SAKURADA FROM SALES IS HERE!
SHE LOOKS SO CONFIDENT AND COOL!
WAG
WAG
WAG
AND THE WAY SHE EXPLAINS HER ORDER
LOOK HOW CONFIDENTLY SHE'S CALLING THE WAITER!
SHE MUST COME HERE ALL THE TIME
SHE LOOKS REALLY CONFIDENT

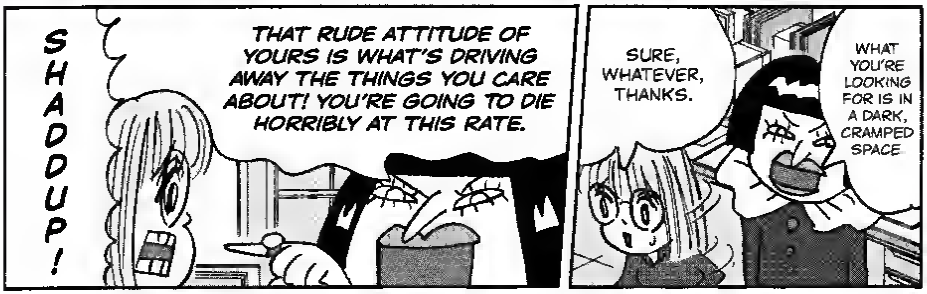
YOU COULDN'T DO THAT UNLESS YOU WERE REALLY RELAXED, OR DIDN'T THINK ANYBODY WAS AROUND
SHE'S USING THE CORNER OF THE PAGE TO SCRATCH HER NOSE!
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
FLIP FLIP
HUH?
WHAT'S SHE DOING?
OOH.. SHE'S STARTED READING A BOOK.
WHILE HER MOUTH IS TURNED TOWARDS THE SPAGHETTI
AND SHE KEEPS HER EYES ON HER PHONE
BEEP BOOP
SHE'S GETTING MORE AND MORE FOCUSED ON TEXTING
WOW, SHE'S EATING WHILE SHE TEXTS!
CLATTER
OOH, HER SOUP SPAGHETTI IS HERE
I HOPE SHE'S OKAY...
SHE FELL OFF HER CHAIR!
OH WOW, SHE JAMMED THE HOT SPAGHETTI UP HER NOSE!
ARGH!!
GASP
GASP
COUGH
COUGH
UM...
MA'AM, HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR ORDER?

Chapter 109

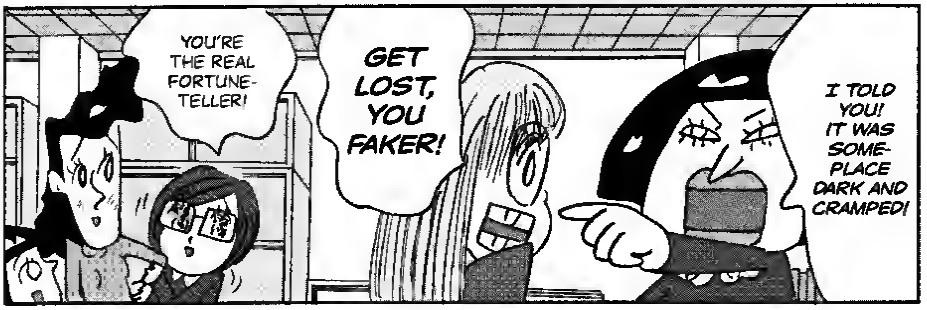
The Company Fortune Teller

2005


YOU CAN SEE ME PANICKING AND LOOKING FOR SOMETHING, SO THOSE TWO THINGS SHOULD BE OBVIOUS!
AND YOU HAVE A HABIT OF PANICKING!
I KNEW THAT ALREADY!
YOU'RE A SCATTER-BRAIN!
YOU DO, HUH?
I'VE GOT IT!


SHADDUP!
THAT RUDE ATTITUDE OF YOURS IS WHAT'S DRIVING AWAY THE THINGS YOU CARE ABOUT! YOU'RE GOING TO DIE HORRIBLY AT THIS RATE.
SURE, WHATEVER, THANKS.
WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IS IN A DARK, CRAMPED SPACE

WOW! HERE IT IS!
WHAT?
WHENEVER YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT YOU ALWAYS PUT IT IN YOUR WALLET, RIGHT?
I LOST SOMETHING IMPORTANT.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


YOU'RE THE REAL FORTUNE-TELLER!
GET LOST, YOU FAKER!
I TOLD YOU! IT WAS SOMEPLACE DARK AND CRAMPED!

Chapter 110

A Girl Who Loves Her Parents

2005

THE OLD MEN ARE EXCITED ABOUT SOMETHING.
RUSTLE
MRMR
WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
AND AT HER AGE, HUH?
SHE'S AMAZING!
JUST AMAZING
AI MIYAZATO, THE PRO GOLFER!
GAAH
HOW I WISH I HAD A DAUGHTER LIKE THAT!
SHE MUST LOVE HER PARENTS.
SHE'S GONNA MAKE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEN
TEACHING HER TO PLAY GOLF TOTALLY PAID OFF!
IT'S AMAZING WHAT SHE CAN DO AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE

SHUT UP!
BUT NOW YOU'RE JUST A NORMAL OFFICE LADY, AREN'T YOU?
WELL, I TOOK PIANO LESSONS
DID YOUR PARENTS MAKE YOU LEARN ANYTHING?
WHAT? WHAT'S WRONG?
STARE!
HEY, IT'S THE GUYS!
MRMR
PEOPLE USED TO HAVE HIGH HOPES FOR US TOO!
IT'S HARD TO GET REALLY GOOD AT SOMETHING.
BUT IT DIDN'T REALLY GET ME ANYTHING.
I LEARNED ENGLISH!
I USED TO DO VOLLEYBALL.
THAT'S WHERE MEN AND WOMEN ARE DIFFERENT!
WHAT IS IT?
BWA HA HA HA!
I WANTED TO BE A DIRECTOR I EVEN MADE MY OWN MOVIE!
RUSTLE
I WANTED TO MAKE A LIVING PLAYING MUSIC
I WANTED TO BE A PRO BASEBALL PLAYER
BUT ALL THAT'S IN THE PAST NOW.
THE GUYS WILL HAVE TO DO THIS THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.
WE CAN STILL MARRY RICH!

Chapter 111

Written on the Mask

2005

SNEEZE
COUGH
MAYBE THEY'VE ALL GOT ALLERGIES?
A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE WEARING MASKS
SNEEZE
SNEEZE
COUGH
WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU GOT ALLERGIES?
I'VE GOT A COLD!
WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR WHY EVERYBODY'S GOT THEIR MASKS ON
IT'S A DANGEROUS MISTAKE TO MAKE, THOUGH!
BUT I'VE GOT WORK TO DO..
YOU NEED TO STAY HOME AND REST
GYAH! I'LL GET SICK!
SMACK

I KNEW IT. LOTS OF PEOPLE HAVE ALLERGIES
ALLERGIES
ALLERGIES
ALLERGIES
COUGH
COUGH
SEE? NOW IT'S EASY TO TELL.
COLD
ALLERGIES
COLD
ALLER
SCRIBBLE
SCRIBBLE
ALLERGIES
EVERYBODY! WRITE WHY YOU'RE SICK ON YOUR MASK!
OKAY
OKAY
OKAY
WELL, I GOT ALL SCRATCHED UP BY A CAT AND IT LOOKS UGLY...
WHAT DOES "CAT" MEAN?
CAT
HEY, SOMEBODY'S ON A DIET!
SO I WON'T EAT SNACKS AT WORK.
IT WAS THREE DAYS AGO IN THE EVENING. I FELT HOT SO I WENT TO BED EARLY, BUT WHEN I WOKE UP MY BODY STILL ACHED...
"IT WAS THREE DAYS AGO IN THE EVENING. I FELT HOT SO I WENT TO BED EARLY, BUT..."
MOGE'S GOT A LOT WRITTEN DOWN.
SHUT UP!
HA HA HA
CAT
WIFE
HE GOT IN A FIGHT WITH HIS WIFE
NO THANKS!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
I THINK IT'S A COLD, BUT I SPENT SIX MORE MASKS WRITING MY SYMPTOMS

Chapter 112

Bought Out

2005

COME ON GUYS, THIS IS A BIG DEAL!
WITH YOUR FACE IT WON'T MATTER
I WONDER IF THERE ARE ANY CUTE GIRLS THERE.
I WONDER IF THAT'LL MAKE THE INTERNET CHEAPER
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
MRMR
MRMR
WE'RE GONNA BE BOUGHT OUT BY SOFT BANK AND LIVE DOOR ?!
OH NO!
LET'S ALL GATHER UP SOME MONEY AND BUY THE COMPANY FOR OURSELVES!
JEEZ, WHAT IS WRONG WITH EVERY-BODY?
NOBODY'S GETTING THIS CHAIR WITH MY BUTT-PRINT IN IT!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HAP-PENS TO THE COM PANY, BUT
YOU SAID WE'RE BEING BOUGHT OUT...
W-WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU ALL?
CAN WE BUY THE COMPANY FOR 4500 YEN?
WHAT IS IT?
CHIEF?
I'VE GOT 2000 YEN
TOMOR ROW'S PAYDAY SO I'VE ONLY GOT 200 YEN
I'VE GOT 1500.
SO THAT WAS IT!
I'M BUYING A NEW CAR AND WANTED TO KNOW IF THEY WANTED TO COME TRY OUT A TEST DRIVE.
OH, I WAS TALKING WITH SOME FRIENDS AT SOFT DOOR AND LIVE BANK.

Chapter 113

I Wanna Live in Roppongi Hills

2005

WHAT ?!
DING DONG
YOUR BOY-FRIEND LIVES IN ROPPONGI HILLS?
HEH HEH HEH
I HAD NO IDEA YOU KNEW SOMEONE LIKE THAT!
WOW
THAT'S AMAZING!
WOW
HE LIVES IN ROPPONGI HILLS?!
WOW, EVERYBODY WHO LIVES IN ROPPONGI HILLS IS LOADED!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
I BET HIS ROOM HAS GOT STOCKS EVERY-WHERE!
DOES HE DO INVESTMENTS OR FINANCE?
SO WHAT, DID HE MAKE HIS MILLIONS IN I.T.?
MRMR
MRMR
HMM
HMM
OH, THE GUYS HAVE NOTHING TO DO SO THEY CAME OVER.
I KNOW ALL ABOUT ROPPONGI HILLS
MRMR
MRMR

IF YOU GET LOST AND CRY MAYBE SOME NICE PERSON THERE WILL ADOPT YOU!
I GOT LOST THERE ONCE!
I ONCE WENT TO THE SECOND FLOOR!
I WENT NEAR ROPPONGI HILLS ONCE!
SHUT UP, CHIEF PLEASE!
SO WHO LIVES ON A HILL NOW?
PLEASE SHUT UP!
HEH HEH
I CRACK ME UP
MAYBE HE'S AN IDIOT? YOU KNOW THAT SONG, "FOOL ON THE HILL"?
JUST AT A STANDARD MIXER.
HEY, HEY, WHERE'D YOU MEET HIM?
AW-RIGHT !!
HMM OKAY, I GUESS
NEXT TIME YOU GO TO HIS ROOM, THINK YOU COULD TAKE US? PLEASE? PLEASE?
OH, I GOT AN IDEA!
I'M NOT TAKING YOU, CHIEF!
WHAT SHOULD I TAKE AS A GIFT?

Chapter 114

Frozen Mammoth

2005

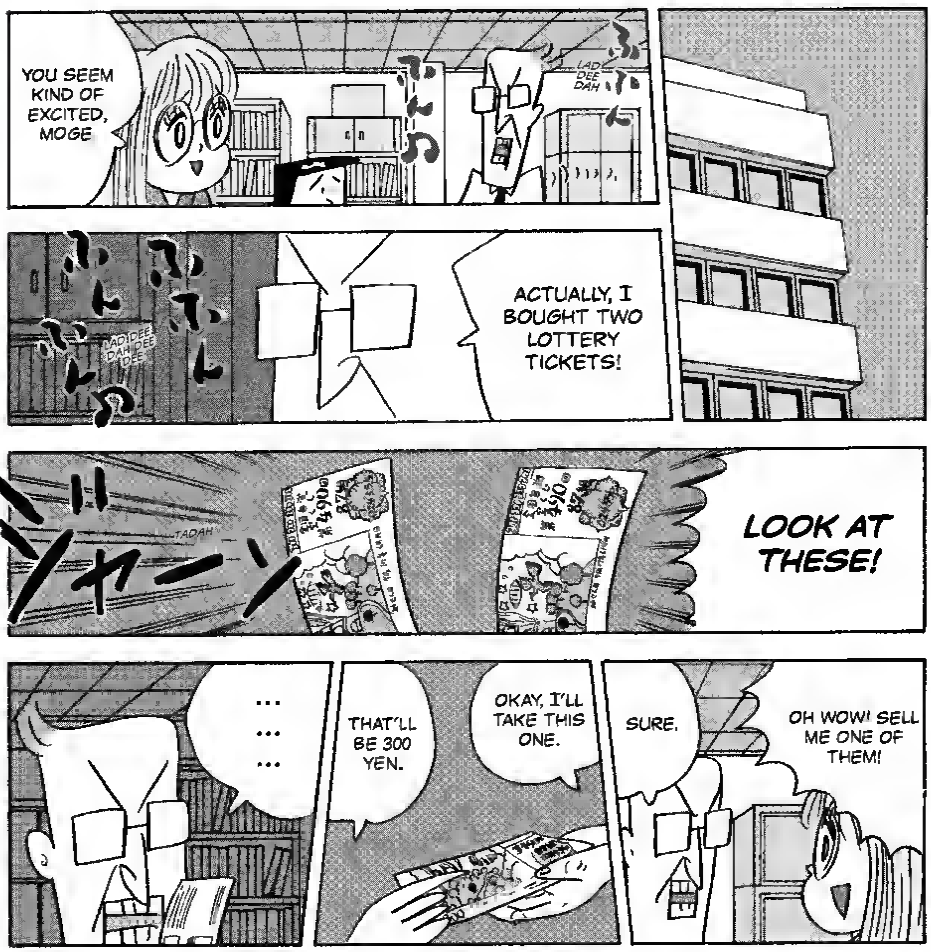
NOT YET, ACTUALLY.
HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE AMAZING EARTH MUSEUM YET?
DING DONG
OOH, ME TOO!
I WANNA SEE THAT FROZEN MAMMOTH!
OH MAN, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IT!
MUMBLE
WELL COME ON, IT'S A FROZEN MAMMOTH!
I HEARD IT'S REALLY POPULAR
IT'S JUST SOME ELEPHANT BONES.
THERE'S ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD!
A MAMMOTH!
BUT... IT'S A REAL MAMMOTH!
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT A FROZEN MAMMOTH?!

...
...
...
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
A REAL ONE!
BUT IT'S A MAMMOTH, GUYS!
MRMR
LET THE MAMMOTH REST IN PEACE!
IT'S WRONG TO LINE THEM UP AND LOOK AT THEM.
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S JUST SOME ELEPHANT BONES!
MRMR
MRMR
THE BONES AREN'T THE PROBLEM!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
SHAKE
SHAKE
WHAT BONES WOULD YOU WANT TO SEE THEN?
SHAKE
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE MAMMOTH?
THERE ARE TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. THOSE WHO WANT TO SEE A FROZEN MAMMOTH AND THOSE WHO DON'T!
SO THIS IS HOW IT IS.
YOU'VE GOT WHAT?
I'VE GOT IT!
JUST GET TO WORK!
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT MAMMOTHS! I'M TALKING ABOUT THIS FROZEN MAMMOTH SPECIFICALLY!
THEN WE CAN DIVIDE THEM INTO PEOPLE WHO LIKE MAMMOTHS AND ONIONS, AND PEOPLE WHO LIKE ONIONS BUT NOT MAMMOTHS.
HUSTLE
BUS
MRMR
MRMR
BUT THAT'S LIKE SAYING THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO LIKE ONIONS AND THOSE THAT DON'T!
MRMR
MRMR

Chapter 115

Which Ticket?

2005



OKAY THEN.
NAH, I'LL STICK WITH THIS ONE.
...
...
...
WANT TO CHANGE, THEN?
HMM... I FEEL LIKE THIS ONE'S MORE LIKELY TO WIN.
COME ON! WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT ALREADY?
ドドド
FULL
FULL
ペた
GRAB
WAIT!
BUT SOME-THING IN THIS ONE JUST SPEAKS TO ME!
BUT THIS ONE'S ON NEWER PAPER.
SOMEHOW THE INK SEEMS PRETTIER ON THIS ONE.
490
URGH!!
NEVER MIND!
GASP
GASP
I'LL HAVE TO LET THE GODS DECIDE! EENEY MEANEY MINEY MOE...

Chapter 116

The Ultimate Diet

2005

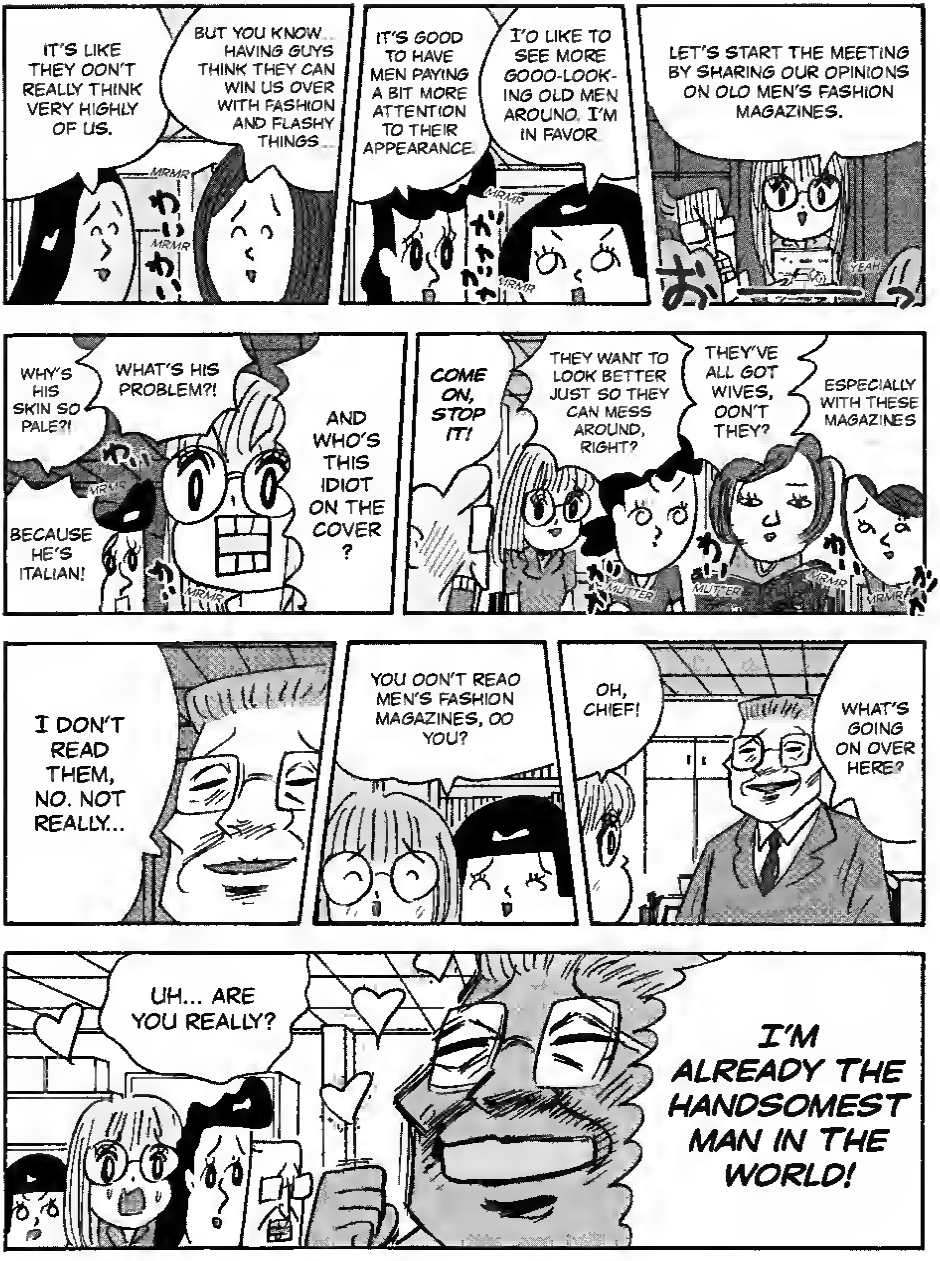
ME? NOPE!
HEY YOMOYAMA, YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT!
DING DONG
I THINK YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT TOO, GOMAYASHIKI!
HUH? YOMO-YAMA ALWAYS LOOKS THE SAME.
BUT NEITHER OF YOU TWO NEED TO DIET.
IT'S ALMOST SUMMER.
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT IS THE SEASON FOR DIETING.
WHAT? THAT'S JUST A WASTE OF MONEY.
I BOUGHT SOME WEIGHTS I CAN LIFT AT HOME.
MRMR
WHAT? YOU ALREADY LOOK GREAT!
I STARTED SOME FAD DIET.
WHAT? YOU'RE ALREADY PLENTY THIN.
I STARTED GOING TO A GYM.

BWA HA HA HA HA!
FREEZE
KOEDA, ARE YOU ON SOME KIND OF DIET?
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANY REALLY GOOD DIET OUT THERE.
BUT SOMEHOW THEY NEVER SEEM TO LAST.
THERE ARE LOTS OF DIETS AROUND, AREN'T THERE?
CHATTER
MRMR
INDEED!
THE TELL EVERYBODY THEY'VE LOST WEIGHT" DIET?!
I'M ON THE "TELL EVERYBODY THEY'VE LOST WEIGHT" DIET!
RUMBLE
A DIET? SURE, I'M ON A DIET RIGHT NOW!
TURNED EVIL!
WHAT? KOEDA'S SUDDENLY..
OH NO
OINK
THEN EVERYBODY WILL GET FAT AND I'LL LOOK THINNER BY COMPARISON!
AND THEY'LL LET THEIR GUARD DOWN AND STOP DIETING.
THEN I DON'T NEED TO DIET!
TELL SOMEBODY THEY'VE LOST WEIGHT
HAVE I?
YOU'VE LOST WEIGHT!
IF YOU'VE GOT THAT MUCH FREE TIME, THEN GO FOR A RUN!
MWA HA HA, SHE SAYS..
RUMBLE
MWA HA HA! I CAN LOOK THINNER WITHOUT HAVING TO DO ANYTHING! IT'S THE ULTIMATE DIET!

Chapter 117

The Old Men's Fashion Boom

2005


IT'S LIKE THEY DON'T REALLY THINK VERY HIGHLY OF US.
BUT YOU KNOW... HAVING GUYS THINK THEY CAN WIN US OVER WITH FASHION AND FLASHY THINGS...
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE MEN PAYING A BIT MORE ATTENTION TO THEIR APPEARANCE.
I'D LIKE TO SEE MORE GOOD-LOOKING OLD MEN AROUND. I'M IN FAVOR.
LET'S START THE MEETING BY SHARING OUR OPINIONS ON OLD MEN'S FASHION MAGAZINES.
YEAH!
WHY'S HIS SKIN SO PALE?!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?!
AND WHO'S THIS IDIOT ON THE COVER?
BECAUSE HE'S ITALIAN!
COME ON, STOP IT!
THEY WANT TO LOOK BETTER JUST SO THEY CAN MESS AROUND, RIGHT?
THEY'VE ALL GOT WIVES, DON'T THEY?
ESPECIALLY WITH THESE MAGAZINES
MUTTER
MUTTER
I DON'T READ THEM, NO. NOT REALLY...
YOU DON'T READ MEN'S FASHION MAGAZINES, DO YOU?
OH, CHIEF!
WHAT'S GOING ON OVER HERE?
UH... ARE YOU REALLY?
I'M ALREADY THE HANDSOMEST MAN IN THE WORLD!

Chapter 118

Learn Yoga at Work

2005

STRETCH
STRETCH
THERE'S AN ITCH ON MY BACK I CAN'T REACH...
SO CLOSE
TAK
TAK
TAK
I THINK I'VE SEEN A POSE LIKE THAT!
HEY, THAT LOOKS LIKE YOGA!
HEY, THAT'S THE HERO'S POSE!
NO WAY, YOU GUYS ARE JOKING
BUT I BET YOU'D BE GOOD AT IT!
AWW, I DON'T KNOW ANY YOGA.

NOPE
THERE'S NO POSE LIKE THAT
THIS, MAYBE?
HUH. SO IS THERE A POSE LIKE...
IT'S GOOD FOR ALL SORTS OF STUFF!
AND THERE'S LOTS OF DIFFERENT POSES!
WOW, YOU TWO DO YOGA?
YOGA'S FUN, ISN'T IT?
RIGHT?
NOPE
NOTHING LIKE THAT
HOW ABOUT THIS?
YUP! THAT'S THE CHAIR POSE!
THEN WHAT ABOUT THIS?
OKAY, MEETING TIME EVERYBODY OVER HERE
STAND
GWAH!
I CAN'T GET IT UNDONE!
YOU MOVE THE LEGS LIKE THIS
I'LL TEACH YOU A POSE.
STRETCH
HER LEGS ARE STILL STUCK THAT WAY
YOU'RE LOOKING TALL TODAY, YOMOYAMA.

Chapter 119

Genghis Khan Nabe

2005

SOMETHING CHEAP, AND FILLING BUT NOT FATTENING!
HEY, LET'S ALL GET SOMETHING TO EAT!
DING DONG
LET'S GO EAT GENGHIS KHAN NABE!
AAH!
KHAN... KHAN... GENGHIS KHAN!
KHAN... KHAN... GENGHIS KHAN!
I'VE HEARD IT TOO!
SHE'S RIGHT! IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
WHENEVER YOU SAY GENGHIS KHAN, SOMEBODY ALWAYS STARTS SINGING THAT SONG!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "AAH"?

LET'S GO SEE!
I WONDER IF EVERY-ONE ELSE DOES THAT.
TMP
IT'S JUST A HABIT!
WHY DO PEOPLE SING IT?
MAYBE IT'S GENETIC
IT'S A 70'S GERMAN DISCO SONG.
WHERE'S THAT FROM, ANYWAY?
YOUNG!
SAKAMOTO IS VERY YOUNG!
SHE'S YOUNG!
IT'S FILLING AND GOOD FOR YOUR SKIN AND YOUR DIET!
IT SOUNDS WONDER-FUL!
HOW ABOUT SOME GENGHIS KHAN?
CHIEF, HOW ABOUT SOME GENGHIS KHAN?
WE GET IT! WE GET IT!
WELL YOU SEE, GENGHIS KHAN NABE IS CALLED SUCH BECAUSE OF THE HELMET-SHAPED POT IT COMES IN, SIMILAR TO. .
HOW ABOUT SOME GENGHIS KHAN?
I'M NOT SURE WHAT TO SAY TO THIS.
HIS PRONUNCIATION IS A LITTLE OFF.
JAN... JAN... BENGHIS BHAN!

Chapter 120

Never Enough Time

2005

I AM, ACTUALLY
BOSS, ARE YOU TAKING TIME OFF?
ALL RIGHT! IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR SUMMER BREAK!
GAAH!
SUN MON TUE WED
I'D LIKE TO BE ABLE TO, ANYWAY.
A WHOLE WEEK?
OH, THE 10TH? SOMEONE NEEDS TO MEET WITH OUR BEST CUSTOMERS?
TRRRING
I WON'T KNOW UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE WHETHER I CAN DO IT.
I HAVEN'T TURNED IT IN YET.
WHAT? THEN YOU DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN YET?!

WELL, IT HAPPENS.
YOU HAVE TO MEET WITH A CUSTOMER THE DAY YOU WERE GOING TO TAKE VACATION?!
SCRATCH
THU
FRI
SAT
I SEE. YES, MY SCHEDULE'S OPEN.
IT'S ALWAYS HARD TO GET SEVERAL DAYS OFF IN A ROW.
OH NO, YOU LOST ANOTHER TWO DAYS!
TUE
SCRATCH
THOSE ARE THE ONLY DAYS EVERYONE CAN GET TOGETHER?
YES? THE 15TH AND 16TH?
CHIRP
TRRRING
SCRATCH
WED
I'M TAKING THE 11TH AND 12TH OFF AND WE NEED SOMEBODY TO PICK UP THE PHONES THOSE DAYS.
ABOUT THAT... WELL...
BUT STILL, FOUR DAYS OFF IN A ROW ISN'T BAD AT ALL.
OH NOOO!
OH, THE SEA IS BIG AND BLUE!

Chapter 121

Around The World Without Leaving Your Desk

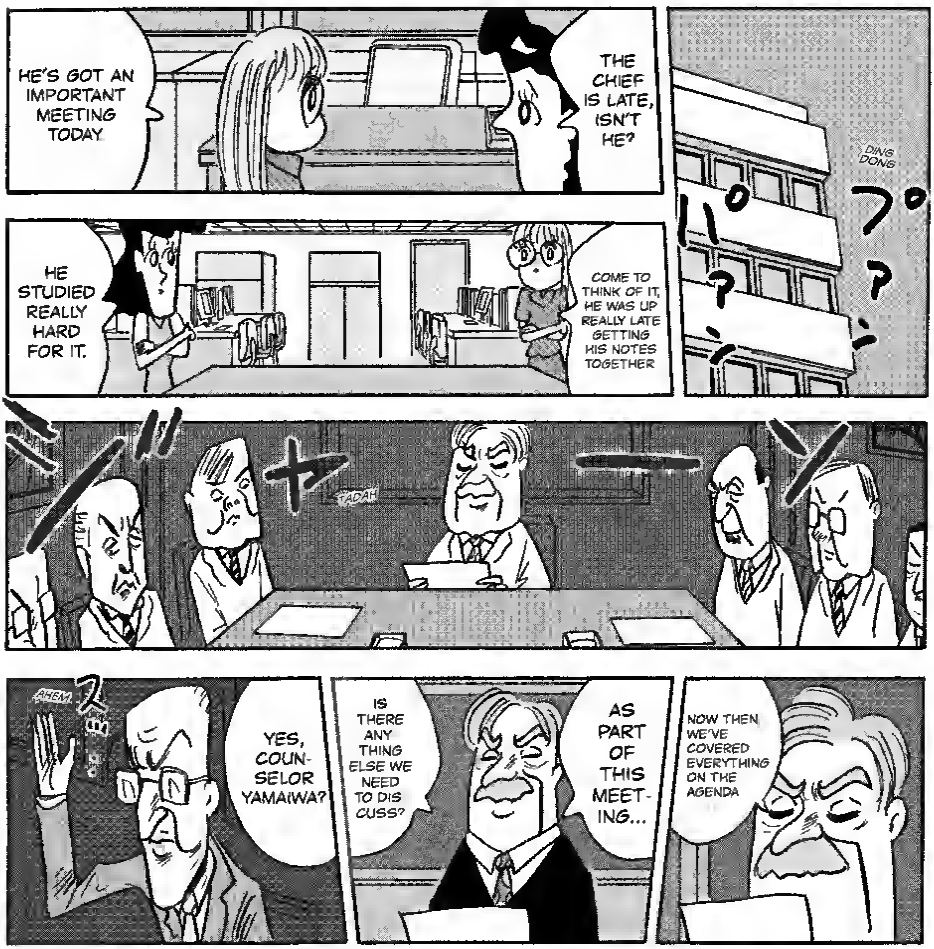
2005

I'VE GOT SOME FRENCH CARAMELS FOR YOU!
I WENT TO CANADA!
I BROUGHT YOU A MATRY-OSHKA DOLL!
MUTTER
MRMR
I WENT TO BALI, AND I BROUGHT YOU THIS DRUM AS A PRESENT!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
I DIDN'T GO ANY-WHERE ON SUMMER BREAK.
I FEEL KIND OF BAD.
SHAKE
CANADA
CONGRATULA-TIONS ON YOUR WORLD TOUR!
THAT'S RIGHT, YOMOYAMA!
THAT'S A GOOD WAY TO THINK OF IT!
CLAP
WHY, IT'S LIKE YOU'VE MADE A TRIP ALL AROUND THE WORLD!
YOU'RE SURROUNDED BY PRESENTS FROM ALL THESE DIF-FERENT NATIONS ...
CHIEF!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO THAT FAR!
IT'S LIKE YOUR LOOKING DOWN ON THE EARTH FROM A SPACE SHUTTLE!
SHAKE
AND IF YOU STAND ON YOUR DESK LIKE THIS AND LOOK DOWN AT YOUR PRESENTS...

Chapter 122

An Important Matter

2005


HE'S GOT AN IMPORTANT MEETING TODAY.
THE CHIEF IS LATE, ISN'T HE?
DING DONG
HE STUDIED REALLY HARD FOR IT.
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE WAS UP REALLY LATE GETTING HIS NOTES TOGETHER
TADAH
AHEM
YES, COUNSELOR YAMAIWA?
IS THERE ANY THING ELSE WE NEED TO DIS CUSS?
AS PART OF THIS MEETING...
NOW THEN, WE'VE COVERED EVERYTHING ON THE AGENDA

MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
MRMR
DOES ANYONE ELSE THINK IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR KAORU SUGITA TO DIVORCE?!
THIS HAS BEEN A CONSTANT SOURCE OF CONCERN FOR ME
BUT IT'S BOUND TO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE JAPANESE TRADITION OF MARRIAGE
ENGINEERING
THESE CHOICES SHOULD BE LEFT TO THE INDIVIDUAL.
HUMAN RESOURCES
IT SEEMED ACCEPTABLE TO ME.
SALES
I'LL ADMIT THAT IT DID SEEM A LITTLE EARLY TO ME.
PRODUCTS DIVISION
I'M SORRY! I HAD NO IDEA THAT KAORU SUGITA HAD DIVORCED!
THEM!
WHAT DOES THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT THINK?
WELL, A LOT HAPPENED
DID ALL THE EXTRA WORK YOU DID PAY OFF?
HOW DID YOUR MEETING GO?

Chapter 123

A Funny Story

2005

SO I'LL BE AT WORK AT 7.
TAK
SO OUT OF LAST QUARTER'S OBJECTIVES, WE ACHIEVED 7..8..9..
DING DONG
5..6..7 PERCENT.. HUH?
AND WE MEET AT FOUR
WOULD YOU STOP THAT?!
I HAVEN'T!
IT'S A FAMOUS STORY YOU MEAN YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF IT?
HUH.
THERE'S AN OLD STORY ABOUT A NOODLE SHOP WHERE THE NUMBERS GET MIXED UP LIKE THAT
WHAT OLD STORY?
IT'S LIKE THAT OLD STORY ABOUT THE SOBA NOODLE SHOP

LIKE THE "THREE GEISHAS" OR "THE HOUSE IN THE WOODS"
THE NAMES ARE NEAT TOO!
THOSE ARE BOTH SUMO WOROS
OH YEAH, LIKE THE "FIRST TWO STEPS" AND THE "TEN COINS!"
OH, I LOVE THOSE GUYS!
THOSE OLD STORIES ARE GREAT
I WENT TO SEE A JAPANESE STORY-TELLER.
MRMR
TELL US A STORY!
A FUNNY ONE!
DO IT! DO IT!
TAMAGOTOSHI, YOU USED TO BE IN THE STORYTELLING CLUB IN SCHOOL, RIGHT?
WHAT?!
THAT'S A RESTAURANT THAT SELLS BEEF SOUP
THERE'S "THE HOUSE OF YOSHINO" TOO!
ONE OF THOSE BEARS... YOU'LL REMEMBER WAS A HUGE SCATTER BRAIN
YOU ALL KNOW THE FAMOUS JAPANESE STORY ABOUT THE EIGHT BEARS...
AHEM THIS IS A STORY OF MY OWN INVENTION
CLAP
HOORAY!!
STEP
HEY, QUIET DOWN!
I WANNA HEAR HOW THIS GOES.
HOW COME IT'S A STORY ABOUT ME?!
YOU SEE, OUR COMPANY'S PLANNING COMMITTEE HAS A SCATTERBRAIN TOO HER NAME IS YOMOYAMA

Chapter 124

You Need More Exercise!

2005

ME TOO. AND MY HIPS ARE A WRECK.
MY SHOULDERS HAVE BEEN SO STIFF LATELY.
DING DONG
I'VE GOT HIGH CHOLESTEROL.
MY BLOOD SUGAR'S BEEN REALLY HIGH.
I FEEL COLD ALL THE TIME
I'M GETTING A POT BELLY.
I'VE GOT STIFF SHOULDERS.
MY LEGS GET ALL SWOLLEN UP
WE ALL NEED TO GET SOME EXERCISE!

LET'S ALL GO EXERCISE TOGETHER!
IT'S HARD TO FIND THE TIME TO EXERCISE
WELL, I KNOW THAT, BUT...
AND I BOUGHT JOGGING SHOES AND STUFF, BUT..
I JOINED A GYM.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO FIND A PLACE TO DO IT!
WE COULD PLAY PING-PONG AND BADMINTON!
IT'D BE A NICE CHANGE OF PACE!
YEAH!
THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
THEY'RE FULL UNTIL NEXT SPRING, THEY SAID.
I'LL CALL RIGHT NOW! HELLO? IS THIS PORTSIDE GYM?
CHAK
MAYBE WE COULD FIND ONE NEAR THE COMPANY!
こうしてしばらくの間運動は忘れられるのであった。
AND THUS, EVERYONE FORGOT ABOUT EXERCISE FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.
LET'S ASK IN A BIT.
EXERCISE IS REALLY POPULAR LATELY.
OH WELL. IT WAS A GOOD IDEA.

Chapter 125

Stand-up Bar

2005

THAT VOICE!
HA HA
YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS ARE SUCH WIMPS!
IT'S NOT A TRAIN!
AT LEAST IF THERE WERE HAND-STRAPS...
AWW, YOU'RE SUCH A WIMP!
BUT...
BUT I HAVE A SECRET TECH-NIQUE!
YOUR LEGS ARE SHAKING
YOUR GLASS IS SHAKING TOO
QUAKE
SHAKE
MOGE ?!
I'VE BEEN STAND-ING UP THIS WHOLE TIME!
GO!
DOES HE WANT TO STAND UP THAT BADLY?
THE HUMAN BODY IS AN AMAZING THING.
SECRET TECH-NIQUE-- SUPPORT YOURSELF BY YOUR RIBS!

Chapter 126

Earthquake, Part 2

2005

IRRING
THE PHONE IS RING-ING!
WE CAN WAIT AND SEE WHAT THEY SAY.
WHAT DO WE DO ABOUT THE MEET ING?
DING DONG
KITANO? FROM HOKKAIDO?
HELLO? THIS IS YOMO-YAMA.
WHA ?!
JOLT
IT SEEMS TO BE SHAK-ING.
SHAKE
IS THE ROOM SHAKING ?
I DON'T WANT TO SPEND A LOT OF ENERGY ON THIS THOUGH.
BUT WILL THERE BE ENOUGH TIME?

ANY-WAY...
SO...
SHAKE
MAYBE A WEAK 5.0?
MAYBE A 4.0?
THE ONES WHO TRY TO GUESS IT'S SIZE
HUH.
THE ONE WHO SAYS IT FIRST
THE ONE WHO PRETENDS TO BE UNCONCERNED
AN EARTH-QUAKE!
KA-THUNK!
YES, WE'D LOVE TO.
HE'S CALLING FROM HOKKAIDO SO HE DOESN'T KNOW THERE'S AN EARTH-QUAKE!
NO, NOT AT ALL.
OH YES, AND WE'RE VERY APPRECIA-TIVE...
THE ONE WHO CAN'T HANG UP THE PHONE
WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
WERE WE TALKING ABOUT THE MEET-ING?
THE ONES WHO REALLY DON'T WANT TO GO TO THAT MEETING
カチャ
KACHAK
YES, I'D SUPPOSE IT'S ABOUT A FIVE...
NO, THE BOOKCASES HAVEN'T STARTED FALLING OVER YET.
ANYWAY, SO I'LL CALL YOU BACK.
A SHORT PITCH AND THEN A LONG SWAY, ACTUALLY...
<AN EARTH-QUAKE!?>
YOU SEE, ACTUALLY THERE'S AN EARTH-QUAKE HERE RIGHT NOW...
IT'S BEEN OVER FOR A WHILE NOW.
KYAH!

Chapter 127

All the Little Children

2005

LIKE PEOPLE SAY "KOIZUMI CHILDREN."
I'VE HEARD THE WORD "CHILDREN" A LOT LATELY.
DING
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ANYWAY?
I THINK IT MEANS LIKE UNDERLINGS.
DISCIPLES, MAYBE?
THEN WE'RE OHASHI CHILDREN!
LIKE HOW WE LAUGH AT EVERYTHING.
YOU'RE RIGHT. THE CHIEF HAS AN EFFECT ON US.
MRMR
CHATTER
OR HOW WE ALMOST CRY WHEN WE'RE MAD.
WATARU OHASHI
...
THE NAME OF OUR DIVISION CHIEF.
WHO'S OHASHI?

LET'S GO HAVE THE DIVISION CHIEF RECOG NIZE US THEN!
LET'S DO WHAT?
AND WHENEVER SOMEBODY CALLS AND SAYS "IS THE DIVISION CHIEF IN?" MY VOICE GETS A LITTLE STRONGER.
HA HA HA HA!
LIKE SOME TIMES I FORGET TO GET OFF THE ELEVA TOR
ME TOO!
I GUESS I'M AN OHASHI CHILD TOO.
WE'LL NEVER LEAVE YOU!
WE'LL FOLLOW YOU ANYWHERE, CHIEF!
YEAH!
WE'RE OHASHI CHILD-REN!
WAAH!
...
...
...
SURE DO!
SEE, DON'T I LOOK LIKE HIM?
SOB
OH MY MY....
THE CHIEF WAS JUST SAYING HOW SAD HE IS THAT HIS OWN SON ISN'T SETTING OUT ON HIS OWN

Chapter 128

A Change Of Glasses

2005

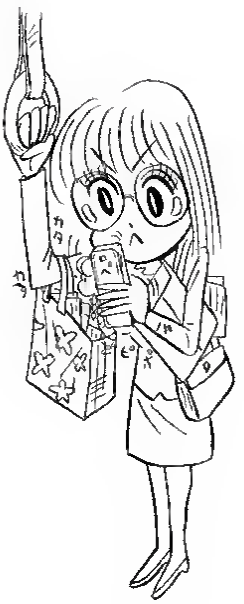
DON'T THEY LOOK GREAT?
SHE CHANGED HER GLASSES!
SOMETHING'S WRONG WITH YOMOYAMA.
TADAH
じゃーん
HUH? OO I REALLY?
YOU LOOK WEIRD!
IT'S LIKE IT'S NOT YOU!
NO, THEY DON'T LOOK GREAT!
MRMR
…
…
CHIEF!
IT'S NOT YOUR GLASSES FAULT YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND!
I THOUGHT THE REASON I CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND IS BECAUSE OF MY ROUND GLASSES
EVEN IF YOU CHANGE YOUR GLASSES, YOU STILL...
THE ROUND ONES ARE BETTER!
I'VE HAD THOSE OLD ROUND ONES FOREVER, SO I CHANGED THEM
YOU SHOULD CHANGE THEM BACK!
WHAT THE HECK ?!
WELL, YOU'LL FIRST HAVE TO SUBMIT A "REQUEST FOR CHANGE OF GLASSES FORM"..

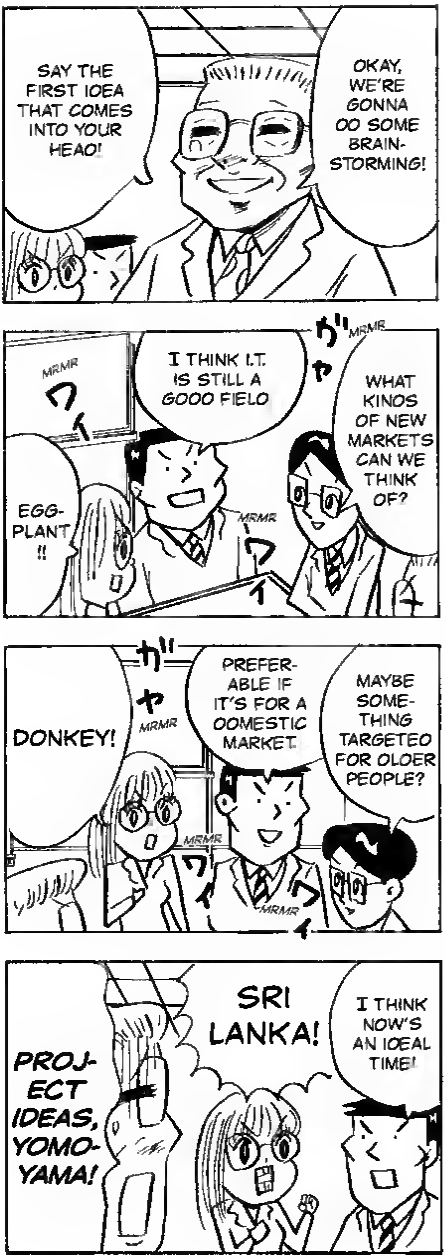
Chapter 129

Blackboard Menu

2005

ARE YOU OKAY?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME? I JUST STARTED SPACING OUT
HUH ?!
DON'T SCRIBBLE ON THE BOARD!
SHAKE
SCRIBBLE
COME TO THINK OF IT, WHEN I WAS LITTLE I SCRIBBLED ON A CHALKBOARD AND A PRETTY TEACHER YELLED AT ME.
SCRIBBLE
SHAKE
HEY! STOP IT!
WELL, I'LL HAVE THE LUNCH-SIZED PASTA
YOU WENT BACK AND ERASED IT, RIGHT?
SHAKE
WE ARE LEAV-ING!
SCRIBBLE
JEEZ, THAT'S ANNOYING.
I MUST BE SCRIBBLING ON THE CHALKBOARD UNCON-SCIOUSLY IN HOPES IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN!
HUH?
I'LL HAVE THE RABBIT STEW SPECIAL.




SAY THE FIRST IOEA THAT COMES INTO YOUR HEAO!
OKAY, WE'RE GONNA OO SOME BRAIN-STORMING!
MRMR
I THINK I.T. IS STILL A GOOO FIELO
WHAT KINOS OF NEW MARKETS CAN WE THINK OF?
EGG-PLANT !!
DONKEY!
PREFER-ABLE IF IT'S FOR A OOMESTIC MARKET.
MAYBE SOME-THING TARGETEO FOR OLOER PEOPLE?
PROJ-ECT IDEAS, YOMO-YAMA!
SRI LANKA!
I THINK NOW'S AN IOEAL TIME!

O.SHI.GO.TO.

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